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WITH SIXPENCE.
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1. The St. Nicholas Veteran Guard.
2. Officer in summer camp dress (white).

3. Cossack Guard, St. Petersburg (blue and red uniform).
4. Tcherkessi (Circassian soldier) in cloak of sheepskin.

5. Cossack Patrol in streets of St. Petersburg.
6. Trans-Baikal Cossack of the Army in Asia.

THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE: TYPES OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERY.

SKETCHES BY MR. A. LARSEN, OUR SPECIAL ARTIST LATELY IN SIBERIA.

OUR NOTE-BOOK

Never since the days of Shakspeare have three men been linked together by the bonds of friendship and literature so distinguished as Southey, Wordsworth, and Coleridge. Lander called them three pillars of one tower; and, though each pursued a distinct path as poets, and Southey's reputation is mainly due to his prose, the names of the trio must ever be inseparable in the history of our literature. Coleridge has been dead for more than fifty years, and yet up to this week there has been no public recognition of his exquisite genius. Visitors to Westminster Abbey have looked upon the features of Wordsworth and Southey, but have sought in vain for the author of "The Ancient Mariner." This is the more singular, since Coleridge not only deserves a place, if ever singer did, in the Poets' Corner, but is also high in the roll of fame as a consummate critic, as a theologian, and as a philosopher. His claims were tardily acknowledged by the honour done to his memory on Thursday. Something more, however, is yet due to him; and it is to be hoped the unveiling of his bust will remind a really competent writer that the life of Samuel Taylor Coleridge on a scale worthy of the subject is a desideratum in literature.

Why will ladies wear those gloves of many buttons, if it be too much trouble to button them all the way up? The fashion was intended to show off the shape of the arm; but, if the upper part of the glove is left in loose wrinkles, the intention is frustrated, and the observer thinks that the wearer must either be a very slovenly, careless creature, unfitted to preside over a household, or have either a grievously fat or a skinny, bony, shapeless arm, to which the glove refuses to cling. Choose either alternative, or button the gloves right up.

The small association of women who are doing business as type-writers in Chancery-lane say that theatrical people and authors are their best customers. The former require their prompt-books and separate actors' parts, and that is intelligible enough; but if authors simply require type-writers to make their effusions legible to editors, so much the worse for the authors. If they wrote plainly they would not be obliged to have recourse to the type-writers, and would effect a considerable saving. Illegibility is not the sign-manual of genius, nor its necessary concomitant; for though Dean Stanley's last letter to a relative was carried about the roads of a suburban village for hours by a despairing postman, and would probably never have reached its destination had not that functionary met the lady to whom it was addressed, yet George Eliot wrote the clearest of hands, and the writing of most of our popular novelists is as plain as print. Everyone who tries may learn to write clearly, but even then the labour of engrossing clerks may be saved, and will afford ample occupation to those who multiply copies of any given document by mechanical means.

If the Delphic and other oracles were (intentionally) equivocal, so are proverbs, whether intentionally or not. "Stuff a cold, starve a fever," says the proverb; and you take that to be two separate injunctions, bidding you stuff yourself when you have a cold and starve yourself when you have a fever. You obey the injunctions to the best of your humble ability and means until you meet "the schoolmaster abroad," who pities your ignorance, tells you that the course you and your fellow ignoramus fatuously but in all good faith pursue accounts for many a premature death, and assures you that the proper way to interpret the proverb is "stuff a cold" (if you are fool enough to do so), and you will have to "starve a fever" (if, indeed, it be right to do that), just as, according to him, "marry in haste, repent at leisure" means "marry in haste" (if you are fool enough to do so), and you will have to "repent at leisure." But (as you tell him, of course) he may not be correct in either case. The first proverb may mean "a person who would stuff a cold would also starve a fever," both courses being wrong; and the second may mean, "as the world cannot go on very well without marriages, and as you would be pretty sure not to marry if you stopped to think about it, the best way is to get it over quickly, no matter if you have to repent it ever afterwards; you'll have plenty of time to do the repentance in." The fact is that the only proverbs that are good for anything but to puzzle us all are those that enable you to exasperate a fellow-creature who is in difficulties by reminding him (keeping carefully out of his reach) that "it's a long lane that has no turning," that "beggars mustn't be choosers," and so on, out of your choice assortment of more or less insulting commonplaces.

The racing season gallops apace: already the first two of the five "classic" races, the Two Thousand and the One Thousand, are over, having been decided this week at Newmarket. The former was first run for in 1809, the latter in 1814; and since those dates ten winners of the Two Thousand, Smolensko, Cadland, Bay Middleton, Cotherstone, West Australian, Macaroni, Gladiateur, Lord Lyon, Pretender, and Shotover, have won the Derby, and seventeen winners of the One Thousand, Neva, Corinne, Zinc, Cobweb, Galata, Crucifix, Mendicant, Governess, Formosa, Hannah, Reine, Apology, Spinaway, Camélia (dead-heat with Enguerrande), Wheel of Fortune, Thebais, and Busybody, have won the Oaks (for a dead-heat, when not "run off," counts as a "win"). Both Two Thousand and One Thousand are now run over Rowley's mile; but up to 1873 the latter was run over the Ditch mile. For the former there has never been a "walk over," though twice, in 1829 and 1830, there were only two runners recorded; but for the One Thousand, though it has never been reduced to a match, there was a "walk over" in 1825. The Two

Thousand is remarkable as the only "classic" race that has ever been won by a "twin" (for "twins" are generally of no account); and that was Nicolo (in 1823), who, also, won the Newmarket Stakes, beating Zinc, winner of the One Thousand and Oaks. The One Thousand is remarkable for having been won by the Duke of Grafton eight times in nine successive years from 1819 to 1827 (the interloper being Lord Jersey, with Cobweb, in 1824); and for the fate of Mayday, who won it in 1834, when it was run on the First of May, to which fact she owed her name, and who broke her leg (and was shot) in the subsequent Oaks. Of course, the winner of the Two Thousand (or One Thousand) may not be entered for the Derby (or the Oaks), as happened when Vedette won the Two Thousand in 1837; and to that circumstance it is probable that the celebrated Blink Bonny owes her great fame, as a winner (like Eleanor in 1801) of both Derby and Oaks: for Vedette would most likely have beaten both her for the Derby and Impérieuse for the Leger, had he run for them. He won everything he ran for at three years of age, and was the sire of Speculum and Galopin.

Terrible storms raged during April along the Canadian shores, and a report comes from Pointe des Monts that a large number of antiquated cannons varying from four to ten feet in length were washed up at Pointe aux Anglais, a spot which derived its name from the disaster to a British fleet which took place there two centuries ago. Old fire-arms, swords, and bayonets have been found from time to time, and tradition tells of a vast treasure, lying *perdu* beneath the waves. Several efforts have been made to reach it, but hitherto without success.

The new President of the United States has a reputation of saying smart things. He calls the standard silver dollar of his country, in which there is a large percentage of base metal, a cloud with a silver lining. Mr. Coxe, the new U.S. Minister to the Porte, is somewhat of a literary man, and just before starting he told the President that his friends said that if he published a book while in Constantinople it would be because he "wanted the whole edition bound in Turkey." "Perhaps they would also prefer that it should be Turkey read," was Mr. Cleveland's merciless response. Nowadays, all persons in high places are supposed to have favourite flowers, and the President has declared for the American daisy, which is much larger than the "wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower" of the British Isles.

At the private view of the Royal Academy Exhibition, it was evident that more people came to see others and show themselves and their pretty costumes than to see the pictures. In fact, the way that a certain well-known beauty and actress was mobbed hardly spoke well for the manners of even the most select English crowds. Wherever she went, her admirers formed a ring round her, and commented in audible tones on her dress and her appearance, comparing them to what they had been on previous occasions. She had no chance of seeing the pictures, even had she come for that purpose; for when she stopped for a moment in her walk through the galleries, she was hemmed in on all sides by strangers, who unceremoniously listened to her conversation. Miss Mary Anderson, too, the American actress, was similarly lionised; and, if she desires to see the works of art, must either go disguised to Burlington House, or arrive there when the doors open in the early morning. Beauty and popularity have their disadvantages—especially, on Private View Day.

The Women's Silk Culture Association in the United States is going ahead, and reported most satisfactory progress at the annual meeting, which took place at Philadelphia on the 16th ult. During the last year it presented new flags of native silk to the United States Government, the Government of its own State, the City Government of Atlanta, and the Emmet Guards at Washington. The production for ordinary commercial purposes includes various dress materials, brocades, gros grains, ribbons, handkerchiefs, and knitting silk. The heavy import duties imposed by the United States on all European articles of dress are having their effect, and our cousins will soon be sufficient unto themselves in the matter of raiment.

The old boots and shoes which, when quite past wearing by anyone, find their way into our dust-bins are extremely valuable, and find their way again into our houses in most artistic forms. They are soaked in many waters to remove the dirt, all the nails and threads are picked out, and the leather is then reduced to a thick pulp, from which the now fashionable embossed leather wall-papers, screens, &c., are made. The finer the original quality of the leather the better it takes the bronze and old gold of the designs which make these hangings things of beauty. Bookbinders and frame-makers also know full well the value of this pulp, and carriage-builders press it into sheets which are invaluable for the roofs of the most luxurious vehicles. After this one feels that the word "rubbish" is a misnomer, and that no such thing exists.

The billiard-match last week between the Champion, Mr. John Roberts, jun., and Mr. W. Cook, sometime Champion, was a very unsatisfactory affair. Such a player as Mr. W. Cook condescended to accept 2000 points out of 12,000, and was beaten, on Saturday, the 2nd inst., by nearly 3000; whereas, on the Wednesday evening previously, he had played far the better of the two, and Mr. Roberts had played so badly (for him) that, in consequence of the slow play, the spectators had to be dismissed before the Champion had scored his proper number of points. No doubt, the Champion made a succession of splendid breaks; and, no doubt, Mr. Cook now and then played like a perfect tetragon; but, on the whole, it was no match at all.

Memorandum: At a game of billiards, when your adversary makes an especially brilliant shot (if he ever does such a thing), never omit to cry, "Hullo! Did you play for that?" And put emphasis on the word "play." If you can do this pretty often, you may not promote the harmony of the occasion, but you may very likely win the game.

It is said that in case of war the wealthy Russian monasteries would place their riches at the disposal of the Government, and this recalls a good story of the late Czar, which *se non è vero, è ben trovato*. Over the catacombs at Kief there is a well-known religious house called the Petsherskaia Laura, whose Prior, during the Crimean War, lent the Czar Nicholas five millions of roubles, in acknowledgment of which the potentate gave a bond in his own handwriting. The precious document was kept in a jewelled casket, and twenty years later, when Nicholas had long slept with his fathers, Alexander II., his son and successor, visited the monastery for the purpose of inspecting some historical documents, the Prior handed it to him with a profound obeisance, and hoped for immediate payment when he saw the Czar press it reverently to his lips and heard him exclaim, "In this you possess a treasure worth ten times the sum it represents!" A pause ensued, and then, to the monk's deep disappointment, the Czar handed the paper back, saying, "I will not rob you of your priceless treasure. Keep it as a sacred relic, for it is my father's own handwriting, and you have not purchased it too dearly!"

Sumptuary laws are things of the past, but a certain Bishop is surely trying to revive them when he gives notice that he will not confirm any girls who wear white dresses or veils. A white dress may be so simple that it is perfection as the attire of a modest and seriously minded maiden, and it ought not to be tabooed altogether, even on an episcopal authority. The Bishop of Manchester has praised the candidates who came to the sacred rite in useful black gowns, but he does not draw a hard and fast line against the garb of ideal purity and spotlessness.

It is singular that up to this year no horse had started first favourite for the Two Thousand at odds on since Lord Lyon won in 1866 with 75 to 40 on; but before that time it had been common enough. It was 6 to 4 on West Australian in 1853, 6 to 5 on Nannykirk in 1849, 13 to 8 on Tom Tulloch (who was beaten) in 1846, 6 to 5 on Idas in 1845, 7 to 2 on The Ugly Buck in 1844, 3 to 1 on Cotherstone in 1843, 11 to 8 on Crucifix in 1840, 7 to 2 on Caesar when The Corsair won in 1839, 6 to 4 on Achmet in 1837, 6 to 4 on Bay Middleton in 1836, and the enormous odds of 7 to 1 and 5 to 1 respectively were laid on Ibrahim and Riddlesworth, who won in 1835 and 1831. On the other hand, it was 10 to 1 against the great Stockwell, 20 to 1 against The Wizard, 25 to 1 against Diophantus, and 10 to 1 against Macaroni when they won. The question this year was to which category of strong favourites Paradox would belong: and he solved it last Wednesday when he won the Two Thousand from the Chopette colt, The Child of the Mist, and four others. Fate owed Mr. Brodrick-Cloete some compensation for the great loss (4000 gs. and "expectations") he sustained by the death of Louisbourg. In old times the Two Thousand was run for on Tuesday, and the One Thousand on Thursday; but since 1872, almost indeed ever since the First Spring Meeting began on Tuesday instead of Monday (but not in 1871), the "classic" races have come off on Wednesday and Friday.

Surely a mother is entitled, if she pleases, to disapprove of her daughter "courting" and being "courted." And some people would admit her right to mark her disapproval by personal chastisement. The wife of a farmer at Leek has, however, gone a little farther than even the strongest advocate of the rod could attempt to justify. Believing her daughter to be walking down the road with a sweetheart, the stern mother mounted a horse and followed the lovers. When she overtook them, she administered a sound horse-whipping to both; and it was not until her maternal arm tired that she found that she had mistaken the pair and had thrashed somebody else's daughter. A newspaper, commenting on the affair, and referring to the police-court proceedings which are imminent, remarks that the affair "has caused the greatest amusement." To whom? Are we to believe that the sufferers were tickled at the humour of being severely beaten? or that the jocularity of the assault pleased the young man? or that the irate farmer's wife is uproarious with laughter at the idea of fines and damages? Anyhow, the occurrence is a warning to all young people not to go flirting in the lanes in the Leek district.

An addition to the list of curiosities of reporting was furnished by the accounts of the Academy banquet in Monday's papers. The *Times* makes Earl Granville refer to "the fact of seeing before me a noble friend, or rather an intimate enemy (alluding to a portrait of the Duke of Richmond which was hung on the opposite wall) sitting opposite to me as he usually does four evenings in the week, and who is represented, if I am not mistaken, in the act of taking notes." The other dailies report him as having alluded not to the portrait of the Duke of Richmond, but to the bodily presence of the Marquis of Salisbury, and the last part of the paragraph runs, "and who is at this very moment, if I am not mistaken, in the act of taking notes." Of such materials is history made!

How not to do it appears to be the motto of the Chile Government, at all events with respect to the splendid ironclad *Esmeralda*, which has just been sent out from England to Valparaiso. The ruling powers were delighted with her on arrival, and straightway invited a large party of notables to enjoy a trial-trip. But instead of retaining the skilful and experienced hands who had brought her safely across the sea, they entirely changed the crew, and substituted native engineers for the English ones. The consequence was that, though everyone was brought safely back to shore, the boilers were burnt out, and the good ship *Esmeralda* is now practically helpless, the repairs required before she again puts out to sea being most extensive.

Roman Catholic soldiers of the Highland Regiment now stationed at Chelsea attend the Pro-Cathedral in uniform on Sundays, and carry the banners in the processions during service. They make a very pretty effect of colour, contrasting with the sombre clothing of those who follow with the tapers.

THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

(From our Special Artist, Mr. W. Simpson.)

Sir Peter Lumsden made his appearance at Sarakhs in the first week of November last. This was done according to the appointment made with Russia, that General Zelenyoy and the Russian Commissioners were to have been at that place at the same date. It was then that the Russian advance to Pul-i-Khatun was first heard of. A few days later, as we marched southwards on the left bank of the Heri-Rud, we reached that place, which is, according to Captain A. F. Barrow's measurement, thirty-nine miles from Sarakhs, and consequently all that distance nearer to Herat. From Sarakhs to Pul-i-Khatun the ground on each side of the Heri-Rud is low; on the right, or eastern bank, there are undulating downs of no great height. But at Pul-i-Khatun a hilly region begins, which gives that point a great importance as a military and strategical position. To the south is a rocky gorge, which could be defended by a very few men against great odds. Our next march was a long one of about twenty-five miles, to a place called Khojeh Saham-ed-deen; this name belongs to a saint's zialet, or shrine. The hills on the right bank of the river increased in height as we came along, and opposite our camping ground was a bold rocky cliff, resembling Salisbury Crags at Edinburgh. Next morning, as we moved south on our march, this cliff opened out, and on its eastern flank we saw the entrance to the Zulfagar Pass. At that time we had no idea that it was likely to possess an interest in connection with the Afghan boundary; but the striking and picturesque appearance of the Pass was sufficient to entitle it to a place in an artist's sketch-book, and I am able now to give a representation of it, as it has become historical in connection with the question of the Afghan frontier. The Sketch is taken from Goolar, on the western bank of the Heri-Rud; the Pass itself is on the eastern bank, and glimpses of the river may be seen through the openings of the low hills on the Goolar side. It will be seen that the stratification produces cliffs extending like long terraces along the upper part of the hills. "Zulfagar" was the name of Ali's sword, a weapon as mystic and celebrated as the famous "Excalibur," the sword of Arthur; and the tradition is, that the pass was cleft by a blow with it given by the Khalif. This picture of the Zulfagar Pass will show what a strong position it is, even without the aid of the military engineers; and when it is stated that the ground from Pul-i-Khatun to Zulfagar, a space of nearly thirty miles, contains within it all the strategical positions of importance between Sarakhs and Herat on the Heri-Rud, the character of the Russian claims will be understood. I have introduced what is a common feature of the landscape in this part of the world in the autumn; when the long grass is dry, it catches fire, and sends up a high column of black smoke.

One of my Sketches of the Afghan Boundary Commission is that of the perambulator, or mile-measuring machine, brought by the Survey Department from India. This wheel had rolled up all the way from Kindli, the last station yet opened of the Quetta Railway, and has done its fair share of the scientific work of the Expedition. Major Holdich intends, when it returns to Meerut, to have a brass plate affixed to tell what it has accomplished. In our march from Kuhsan to Penjeh, and on to Bala Murghab, natives of the country were employed to wheel it along. At first they could not understand the use of trundling the article, as it carried nothing; but when they found out that it was for measuring the length of the road, they began to take a great interest in the work, and did it with great care. Hera Singh rode with them to see that all went right, and a man carried the plane table, so that he could note the line of country as he went along.

The officers of Sir Peter Lumsden's party, in their enforced leisure on the banks of the Murghab, enjoyed the pastime of shooting. Pheasants had been occasionally seen on our marches; but at Meruchak, as that part of the Murghab is not disturbed by population, these birds have increased in great numbers. From Meruchak to Karaoul Khanah, a distance of about eleven miles, there is no one to disturb the pheasants; and along the whole of this space it is like a well-kept preserve. Most of our party took advantage of this condition of things, and had a few days' good sport. Very large bags were made; over a hundred birds were brought into camp in one day. Our servants were having pheasants for their dinner, and the Mohammedan soldiers of the escort had a supply. To arrange for this, one of the beaters had to perform a process known to followers of the rules of Islam; he had to make an incision in the neck of the bird as soon as he picked it up after it was shot. This ceremony is known as "Halal," as it bleeds the animal, and makes it lawful for food. On the low ground of the Murghab valley, where it is wet and marshy, long reeds grow to a great height, ten feet being a common size, but they often reach twenty feet and more. Most of the shooting had to be done on ground covered with this kind of growth, as well as smaller reeds. These reeds made it difficult at times to shoot; for in laying the gun towards the birds some of the reeds would come in contact with the barrel, and thus prevent that accuracy of aim which was desired. At times some members of the Boundary Commission had their eyes in the air following the pheasants; of course they were, at such moments, not keeping the necessary look-out for the boundary between land and water under their feet, and the result was often a sousing up to the middle, in water about the freezing point. The birds have very beautiful colours, slightly different from the English pheasant, a whitish wing being the most distinctive characteristic. This peculiarity is found among these birds as far west as Sarakhs, but it stops at Lutfabad, about sixty miles east of Askabad; those at the Chacha and along the rivers watering the Ateks, on the north-west border of Persia, being exactly the same as the English. The Turkomans performed the part of beaters, and, for want of dogs, they had also to become retrievers; they could not understand why the birds were always allowed to get up before they were fired at. It is only ten miles from our camp where this splendid preserve begins, and it would, no doubt, be visited again, before the Commissioners would leave the Murghab Valley.

On my way home from Afghanistan, I came to Baku, on the Caspian. This is the port from which soldiers can now be most readily sent from the Caucasus and the Black Sea to the Trans-Caspian province, the Russian official name by which that part of Turkestan on the left bank of the Oxus, including Merv and Sarakhs, is now known. The railway from Batoum, via Tiflis, gives direct communication between the Black Sea and the Caspian. I was in Baku in the second week of April, and learned the fact of the important movement of troops which had been taking place in order to support General Komaroff's advance on the Heri-Rud and the Murghab. While I was there a rifle regiment arrived on its way through. They were quartered in a field near the railway station, where they had to wait a day or so for the steamer to take them across the Caspian to Krasnovodsk. They were all very young fellows, small and dumpy, with little or no hair on their faces. Higher up in a field was a battery of artillery, with six guns, also on its way to central Asia. The soldiers were dressed in the usual dark green, the colour of the Russian military uniform. Since the occupation of the Caucasus, the Russian Government has organised a large number of regiments in that country,

and has given them a uniform based on the old Circassian costume. I saw some of these troops at Sarakhs, when I was there in November last, and witnessed one of them perform a characteristic dance, brandishing a couple of daggers as he went through the varied movements, and a Sketch of it has since appeared in the *Illustrated London News*. In Tiflis these Circassian uniforms are a very familiar feature of the streets, and I give an illustration which will convey some idea of them.

Having illustrated so far the Russian soldiers, I also give a group of what may possibly be their opponents, the Afghan soldiers. So far as uniform is concerned, they are thoroughly irregular. Some wear puggarees or turbans, while others wear sheepskin hats; and those troops who belong to Herat, some of them at least, have these head-coverings made of very long hair and shaped something like the bearskin of our Foot Guards. In this Sketch I have introduced General Ghouse-uddin Khan, who commanded the Afghans at Penjeh. I saw him there early in December last, when he sat to me for his portrait. I have been repeatedly asked why the Afghans were beaten in the engagement of March 30. The explanation is not difficult to give. These soldiers are brave enough; but they are irregular in the extreme meaning of that word. They want discipline, as well as good officers to lead them. They are only a mob, and such men must succumb before a regular corps of troops. General Ghouse-uddin Khan I believe to be a brave man, and one who would do his duty; but when I speak of officers to lead, I mean what we would call the regimental officers. I have heard that General Ghouse-uddin Khan behaved himself in a very courageous manner during the late action.

On crossing from Krasnovodsk to Baku, among the passengers on board the Grand Duke Constantine was a prisoner from Central Asia. What his crime was I could not learn; but he was heavily ironed: he had strong iron rings on each wrist and on each ankle, with chains connecting them. There was a military guard accompanying him, and one of the soldiers, with gun and bayonet, stood sentry over their charge during the voyage. I presume that he would be taken to Tiflis, as the capital, either for his trial or to undergo his sentence, whatever that might chance to be.

W. S.

THE CHURCH.

The ceremony of the enthronement of the new Bishop of Exeter, Dr. Bickersteth, will take place in the cathedral at Exeter to-day (Saturday).

The Bishop of Truro has conferred a canonry, coupled with the precentorship of Truro Cathedral, on the Rev. Augustus Blair Donaldson, M.A., Oxon.

Dr. Hessey, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, gave his annual charge to the clergy of the archdeaconry on Wednesday, in the Church of St. Paul, Covent-garden.

Next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 11, 12, and 13, addresses will be given in Westminster Abbey at four p.m. by the Bishop of Truro.

The Consistory Court of London has granted faculties for the use of the burial-grounds of Holy Trinity Church, Gray's-inn-road, and of St. John's, Clerkenwell, as recreation-grounds.

The Dean of Manchester has nominated the Rev. E. J. Reeve, Vicar of St. Peter's, Stockport, to the living of St. Alban's, Cheetwood, Manchester, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Canon Knox Little.

The election of Bampton Lecturer at Oxford University for the year 1886 took place on Tuesday, when the Rev. Dr. Bigg, of Christ Church, was selected for the appointment, which is this year held by the Ven. Archdeacon Farrar.

A morning concert was given on Monday at Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, in aid of the restoration fund of St. Peter's Church, Great Windmill-street. The concert was under distinguished and Royal patronage, and an excellent programme had been compiled for the occasion.

The parish church of Rame, which overlooks the Channel from the headland to which it gives name at the entrance to Plymouth Sound, was recently reopened by the Bishop of Truro, after complete restoration at the cost of the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, from the drawings and under the direction of Messrs. Hine and Odgers, Plymouth. The present church dates from the thirteenth century, but Norman remains have been found during the recent restoration.

Archdeacon Hobhouse and forty members of the Lower House of Convocation having presented to the Bishops a protest against the grant of land by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for two public parks in the Metropolitan district, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that the Church was bound to care not for the souls of the people only, but also for their physical and moral health. The Bishop of London said, as being extensive landowners, the Commissioners must discharge all the duties that devolved upon landowners.

The Earl of Chichester presided on Tuesday at the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society, which was held in Exeter Hall. It was stated that the total receipts for the year had been £231,541; and the general expenditure had been £207,283, besides payments from special funds. The Committee ask for £15,000 this year, and £5000 a year rise every year afterwards. The adoption of the report was moved by the Bishop of London, who remarked that the increased means of communication between various parts of the world were a distinct call to missionary exertion.

The design of the stained-glass window which was placed in the Salisbury Cathedral last Saturday, commemorating the connection of the late Duke of Albany with Wiltshire, received the approval of the Duchess.—The parish church of Newchurch, Rossendale, has been much improved in its internal appearance by the erection of a two-light Munich stained-glass window, the work of Messrs. Mayer and Co. The subjects represented are—in one light "St. Elizabeth teaching St. John," and in the other, "Giving Alms."—The second anniversary of Lord Vernon's death was commemorated on the 1st inst. by the reopening of the parish church at Sudbury, to which a reredos and two stained-glass windows have been placed as a memorial to this much-respected nobleman.—A handsome window, executed by Headon, Butler, and Bayne, of Garrick-street, has recently been placed in the north aisle of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Munster-square, by Mr. Commissioner Kerr, in memory of his wife.—A richly painted window, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, with the subject of "The Healing of Malchus," has been erected in the Church of St. Peter, Belsize Park, the gift of Mr. Charles Light, in memory of his brother, completing the series in the south aisle.—Mr. Howard Potter, of New York, on behalf of Mr. Russell Lowell, the American Minister, on Tuesday unveiled, in the parish church of Stratford-on-Avon, a Shakspeare memorial window, subscribed for by American visitors to the poet's tomb. The subjects represented in the window are Shakspeare's "Seven Ages," illustrated from the Bible. Thus the infant is represented by the finding of Moses in bulrushes, the lover by Jacob and Rachel at the well, and so on. The work has been executed in the highest style of art by a well-known London firm.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty, who is in excellent health, arrived at Windsor Castle last Saturday evening, on her return from the Continent. On the morning of Friday, May 1, the Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, Princess Irene, and Prince Henry of Battenberg, drove to the Rosenhohe, and visited the mausoleum of the lamented Grand Duchess. In the afternoon they received the Princess of Battenberg, Princes Alexander and Francis Joseph, and Count and Countess Schoenberg. Her Majesty and the Princess afterwards drove through the principal streets of the town. The Royal party left for England at ten o'clock in the evening. The Grand Duke and the members of his family took leave of the Queen and the Princess at the railway station. On the following morning the Royal party arrived at Flushing. Her Majesty embarked on board the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, Captain Fullerton, reaching Port Victoria at 4.15 p.m., and, travelling thence by special train on the North Kent and South-Western Railways, arrived at Windsor Castle at 7.30 in the evening. Princess Beatrice and the members of her Majesty's household attended Divine service in the private chapel on Sunday morning. The Very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, assisted by the Rev. Thomas J. Rowsell, Deputy Clerk of the Closet to the Queen and Canon of Westminster, officiated. The Rev. Canon Rowsell preached the sermon. Earl Granville had an audience of the Queen. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited the Queen and remained to luncheon. The Duchess of Albany, with Princess Alice and the infant Duke of Albany, attended by the Hon. Mrs. R. Moreton, arrived at the castle in the afternoon from Claremont. Her Majesty went out on Monday morning. The Duchess of Albany, Princess Alice, and the infant Duke took leave of the Queen on Monday, and, attended by the Hon. Mrs. R. Moreton, left the castle shortly after two o'clock for Port Victoria, en route to Germany, where her Royal Highness is going on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Waldeck, at Arolsen. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein dined with her Majesty in the evening. On Tuesday the new Bishops of Lincoln and Exeter arrived at Windsor Castle, and did homage to the Queen on their appointment. Earl and Countess Spencer visited the Queen at Windsor Castle, and were included in the Royal dinner party.

Official notice is given that the Prince of Wales will, by command of the Queen, hold a Levée at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, next Monday, the 11th inst.

We are authorised to state that Drawingrooms will be held at Buckingham Palace next Wednesday, the 13th, and on Monday, the 18th inst.

Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Christian, accompanied by his son, Prince Albert, visited the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Thursday week, and remained to luncheon. The Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, were present in the afternoon at the Royal private view at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, and were received by Sir Frederick Leighton, the President, and the members of the Council. Last Saturday the Prince, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opened the subway recently constructed from the South Kensington Station to the Exhibition of Inventions. The Princess, accompanied by Prince George of Wales and suite, visited the Royal Comedy Theatre in the evening, to witness the performance of "Bad Boys." The Duchess of Albany visited the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Brazilian Minister (Baron de Penedo) presented Prince Albert Victor, in the name of the Emperor of Brazil, the order of the Southern Cross on the attainment of his Royal Highness's majority. On Sunday the Prince and Princess, and Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud were present at Divine service. On Monday the Prince, in the presence of a numerous and representative assemblage, including members of the Royal family, Ambassadors, and Ministers, opened the International Exhibition of Inventions. The Prince received the Maharajah of Johore at Marlborough House in the afternoon. Prince Albert Victor has returned to Great Yarmouth, and Prince George to H.M.S. Excellent, at Portsmouth. The Prince will preside at the festival dinner in aid of the funds of the North London University College Hospital next Wednesday, May 13, at the Langham Hotel. His Royal Highness signified to the Mayor of Londonderry that he will have great pleasure in becoming an exhibitor at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in Derry in July next, and will present a cup for competition. The Prince was last week unanimously elected a Bencher of the Honourable Society of King's Inns, Dublin. Prince Albert Victor will be called to the Bench of the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple, and will dine with the Benchers in their hall on Wednesday, June 10.

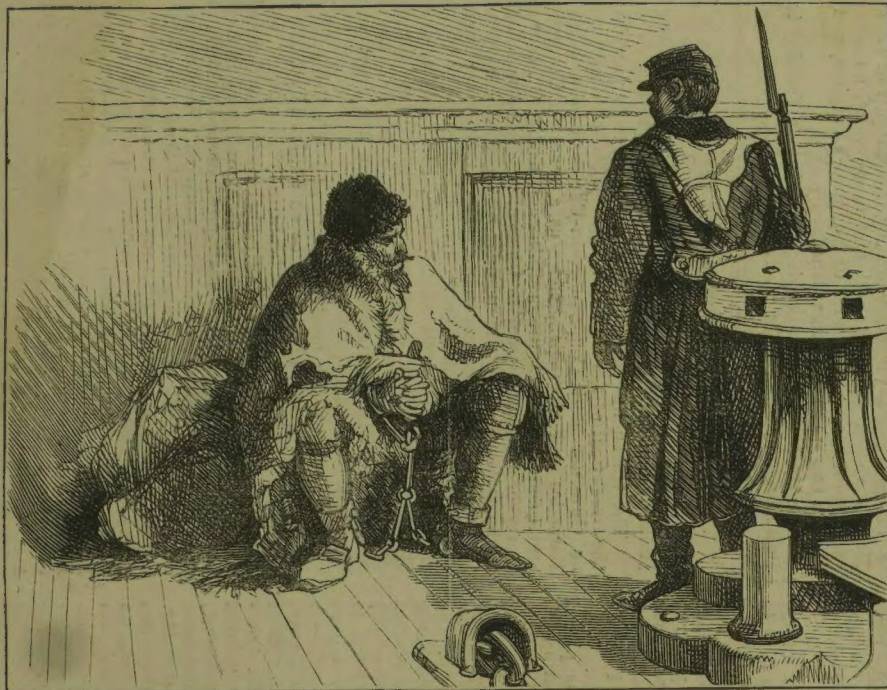
Princess Louise, accompanied by the Marquis of Lorne, on Monday visited the East-End, and inaugurated an industrial exhibition established under distinguished auspices, and also opened two small public gardens.

The Duchess of Edinburgh paid a visit on Tuesday to Mr. Bull's orchid exhibition in the King's-road, Chelsea.

The officers, past and present, of the Rifle Brigade, have appointed their annual dinner for June 5, at Willis's Rooms. In the event of the Duke of Connaught having returned from India by that date, his Royal Highness will preside.

The Queen has directed letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados and its Dependencies as a separate Government; and to appoint Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., at present Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Barbados and its Dependencies. Her Majesty has approved the appointment of Mr. Walter Joseph Sendall to be Governor of the Windward Islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago, and St. Lucia. The Assistant-Secretaryship at the Local Government Board, vacated by Mr. W. J. Sendall, has been accepted by Mr. Courtenay Boyle, one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board.

Phonography, the most scientific and effective system of shorthand writing, which ought to be taught in schools as a universal accomplishment, is beautifully illustrated by the *Reporter's Magazine*. The May Number contains articles which to those who can read them present a variety of interesting literature, accompanied by small pictures and tasteful ornamental designs of an emblematic purport. We recognise a portrait of Mr. Melton Prior, our Special Artist lately in the Sudan, with a memoir of his travelling and campaigning experiences in many parts of the world. There is also a review of Mr. Mason Jackson's excellent History of the Pictorial Press, which is to us of particular interest. Mr. Archibald Forbes has something to tell of the life and work of "War Correspondents"; and a review of Mr. Augustus Hare's "Studies in Russia" comes at an opportune moment. Other articles, concerning the newspaper profession, the business of reporting, and the art and practice of phonography, will be acceptable to a large class of journalists, and to many amateurs of this useful art.



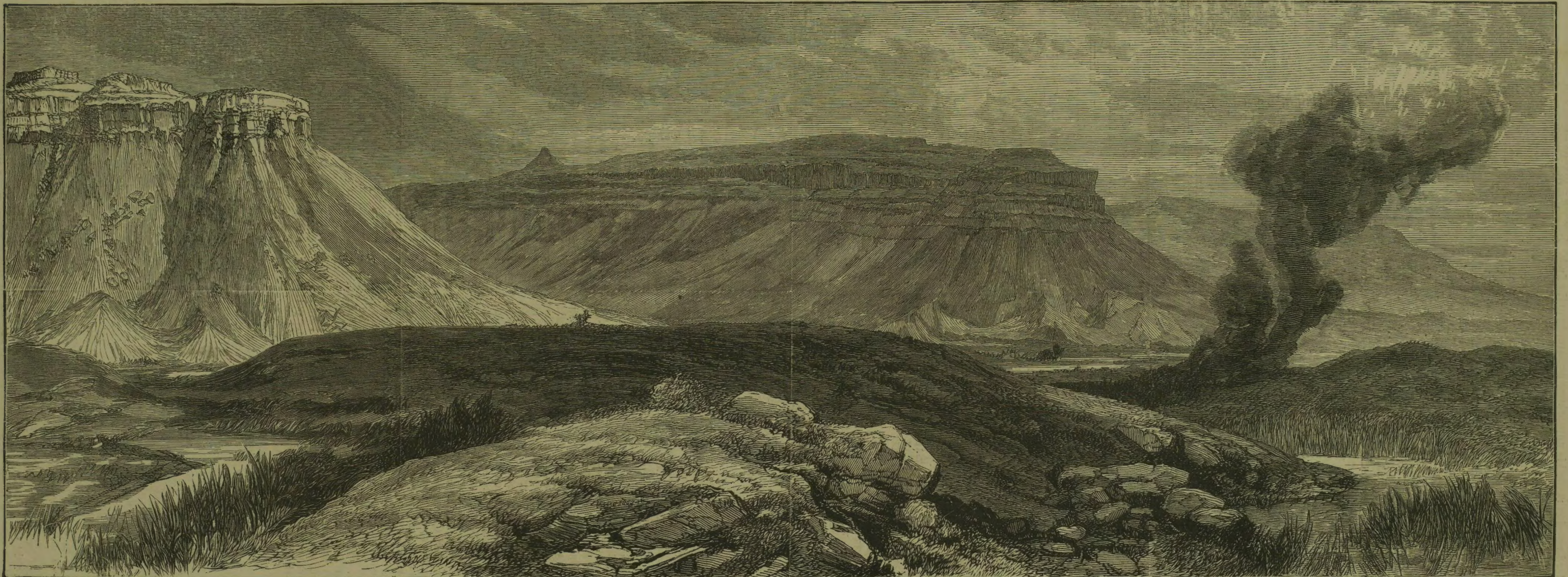
A PRISONER FROM CENTRAL ASIA ON BOARD THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE,
AT KRASNOVODSK, ON THE CASPIAN SEA.



BEG MORAD BEY, A SAROK TURKOMAN, AT MERUCHAK,
ON THE MURGHAB.



MILE-MEASURING MACHINE OF THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.



THE ZULFAGAR PASS, ON THE HERI-RUD.

THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE: SKETCHES BY MR. W. SIMPSON, OUR SPECIAL ARTIST WITH THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.



OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL INVENTIONS EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON BY THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales on Monday performed the ceremony of opening this year's International Exhibition, which consists of Patents and Inventions, and of Musical Instruments, in the buildings and garden at Kensington where the Health Exhibition took place last year, and the Fisheries Exhibition the year before last. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Princess of Wales and the young Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, with one of their children, Prince and Princess Christian, and the Duke of Cambridge, were also present. Her Majesty's Government was represented by the Home Secretary, Sir William Vernon Harcourt; and the Earl and Countess Granville, the Foreign Ambassadors, the Archbishop of York, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Mundella, and many noblemen and members of Parliament, were among the distinguished company. Their Royal Highnesses were received at the entrance, and conducted to the Council

Chamber by Sir F. Bramwell, chairman; the Marquis of Hamilton, vice-chairman; Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., hon. treasurer; Mr. J. L. Bell, M.P., Sir Francis Bolton, Sir G. Grove, Mr. W. H. Preece, Sir E. J. Reed, Dr. Stainer, other members of the Executive Council; Mr. E. Cunliffe-Owen, Mr. Somers Vine, and Mr. Trueman Wood. They formed a procession and set off on a circuit of the buildings. There were no special decorations for this occasion, the exhibitors having probably had quite enough to do in getting their stands ready. The long route was lined throughout with spectators. There were occasional cheers, and continual greetings of respectful loyalty. The route of the procession was across the upper end of the Middle Court (Royal Gun Factory's exhibits) down the North Court (Engineering) across the Austria-Hungary Court and the Chemistry Court, out into the open air, then passing into the East Gallery among the

printing-machines, and on past the Chinese Court to the upper end of the Eastern Arcade, and into the Conservatory, where a dais had been erected, with beautiful flowers at the sides. The Royal party stood on this dais, and heard Sir F. Bramwell read part of the Address from the Executive Council, describing the plan of the Exhibition. The Prince of Wales made an appropriate reply, in the course of which he referred to the new subway between the Exhibition Buildings and the South Kensington railway station, which was opened by his Royal Highness on Saturday. He then declared the Exhibition to be opened, and accepted a catalogue bound in crimson and gold. The procession was again formed, and the Royal visitors were conducted through the other galleries, the machinery department, the American Court, and the Old London Street, to the Prince's Pavilion; they soon afterwards left the Exhibition.

PARISIAN SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Tuesday, May 5.

Parliament reassembled yesterday after a short vacation. The Chamber sat twenty minutes, and the Senate immediately adjourned until Thursday, which would seem to indicate that business is not very pressing. The great topic in the political world is M. Ribot's speech delivered last Sunday at St. Pol (Pas-de-Calais). The orator is the leader of that left-centre group of cool-headed, reasoning Republicans who, when Thiers was their chief, founded the present French Republic, who prevented the reactionary movements of 1873 and 1877, and who have constantly laboured to adapt Republican institutions to the French temperament. In his speech on Sunday M. Ribot endeavoured to prove that a monarchical restoration would be fatal, above all, to the interests which it pretended to serve. As for the Radical programme, M. Ribot will not accept either the abolition of the Senate, the separation of Church and State, the election of the magistracy, or communal autonomy—reforms which are deduced from abstract theories, and which, he thinks, would in reality lead to a constitutional breakdown and a general disorganisation of the forces of the country. M. Ribot judges the present policy of the Government to be narrow and intolerant; he demands the closing of the religious question, order in the finances, cessation (for the present) of colonial extension, and particular attention to agriculture and practical reforms. The danger is, that out of fear of Radical Utopian schemes the electors may be tempted to support the Conservatives, who on their side are organising propagandist tours in the provinces. Next Sunday M. Clémenceau will deliver a programme speech at Bordeaux, in which we shall find the Radical reply to M. Ribot's moderate platform. Henceforward, the whole interest of French politics will be centred upon the forthcoming elections. Parliament will not probably be the scene of any great battles, and by his success in promptly settling the question of the *Bosphore Egyptien*, M. De Freycinet has acquired sufficient prestige to carry him through to the end of the Session.

The grand and absorbing event of the week has been the opening of the Salon. This year a charge of ten francs was made for admission on varnishing day; and the proceeds, amounting to £1000, are to be devoted to the fund for the wounded in Tonquin. The Salon, which will be studied in detail in these columns by a more competent pen than mine, is of a very high average excellence; the number of immense decorative panels, destined for various public buildings in Paris and the provinces, is a novel and interesting feature. In the sculpture department, two very important works by Englishmen occupy places of honour: one is a nude bronze figure of Dryope tempted by Apollo, in the form of a serpent, by R. Barrett-Browning, the son of the poet; the other is a bronze, Hamlet with Yorick's skull, by Lord Ronald Gower.

The death is reported of General Noiset, the oldest General in the French army, at the age of ninety-three.

Mdlle. Louise Michel, who is to be pardoned together with several other political prisoners, has written to the Minister refusing absolutely to accept this pardon or to quit the prison of Saint Lazare unless all the political prisoners are pardoned at the same time.—The famous caricaturist, André Gill, died last week in the lunatic asylum at Charenton, where he had been confined for the last three years. Gill was an ardent Republican; and his caricatures were a force in the Opposition under the Empire and in the early years of the present Republic.

At Brussels on Monday morning a deputation from the Corporation of London, headed by the Lord Mayor, presented an address to the King of the Belgians, congratulating him upon the recognition of the new Congo State by the Powers. The Lord Mayor and the other members of the deputation from the City of London were entertained at lunch on Tuesday in the Hôtel de Ville, Brussels, by the Burgomaster and Aldermen of that city.

The Antwerp Exhibition was opened last Saturday by the King of the Belgians, who expressed his gratification at the realisation of a great work in the success of which he and his brother took a profound interest.

On the same day the Hungarian Exhibition at Pesth was opened by the Emperor, who remarked that so important a festival furnished a proof of national advancement.

Vesuvius has been in a state of active eruption. Last Saturday afternoon two new craters opened with great noise about a third of a mile above the station of the little railway. The streams of lava which issued flowed towards Pompeii.

The Empress of Germany has left Berlin for Baden; and the Grand Duchess of Baden has arrived at Berlin.—Dr. Nachtigal, the eminent German explorer, died on board the German gun-boat Moewe on the 24th ult.

The Emperor Francis Joseph arrived at Vienna from Pesth on Tuesday morning. Count Kalnoky followed in the evening. The members of the Diplomatic Body have all returned to Vienna from their visit to the Hungarian Exhibition.

The new Greek Ministry has been finally constituted as follows:—M. Deliyannis, Minister of Finance and Minister for Foreign Affairs ad interim; M. Zygomalos, Minister of Education; M. Papamichalopollo, Minister of the Interior; M. Antonopoulos, Minister of Justice; M. Romas, Minister of Marine; M. Mavromichali, Minister of War.

Last Sunday the nobility of Russia celebrated the centenary of their rights and privileges as granted by Catherine II. In all the principal towns of the empire the fête was kept with general accord, while at St. Petersburg and at Moscow various ceremonies, processions, and balls were arranged.

The bill for creating a public park around the American side of the Niagara Falls became law on Thursday week.—Madame Patti left for Liverpool last Saturday in the steamer Aurania.—A fire occurred in New York last Saturday night, which resulted in the death of nine persons and injuries to a number of others.—The decrease in the debt of the United States, according to the new form of the monthly statement, was 4,837,000 dols.

The Dominion Government has received a telegram stating that Riel's runners have met with no success in their endeavours to incite the Indians and half-breeds in the Qu'Appelle region to rebellion, and have returned crestfallen.—Intelligence received at Ottawa states that an engagement took place at Battleford on Sunday last between 300 Canadian troops and 600 Indians owing allegiance to the chief Pound-maker. The troops lost seven killed and twelve wounded, while the Indian loss was fifty killed and wounded.—The House of Commons rejected the Woman's Franchise Bill, after a debate lasting uninterruptedly for thirty-one hours.

The revenue returns of New South Wales for the first four months of the present year show an increase of nearly £400,000 over the corresponding period of last year. The Treasurer's estimate of a total increase of £1,500,000 for 1885 will, therefore, be more than realised. That estimate placed the revenue for 1885 at £8,480,000. Arrangements have now been fully completed for the defence of the colony against foreign attack.

BIRTHS.

On the 2nd inst., at 29, Eaton-square, Lady Camoys, of a son.
On the 2nd inst., at 8, Bryanston-square, Lady Beatrice Lister Kay, of a daughter.
On the 3rd inst., at 3, Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, the wife of Carleton Blyth, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 9th ult., at All Saints' Church, Malabar-hill, Bombay, Robert C. O. Stuart, Lieutenant R.A., to Edith, daughter of H. M. Birdwood, Esq., one of the Judges of Her Majesty's High Court of Judicature, Bombay.
On the 29th ult., at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, by the Rev. Henry White, assisted by the Rev. Canon Barker, Chaplains to the Queen, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Gardner, of Newton Hall, Dunmow, Essex, to Nora Beatrice, eldest daughter of James Blyth, Esq., of Wood House, Stanstead, Essex, and 2, Park-crescent, Portland-place, London.

DEATH.

On the 1st ult., about noon, at Lahore, Isabella Calder Bremner, wife of David Ross, Esq., Punjab, and Delhi Railway, and daughter of the late Archibald Bremner, Master of the Raining Normal Institution, Inverness.
* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is Five Shillings for each announcement.

POSTAGE FOR FOREIGN PARTS THIS WEEK.

MAY 9, 1885.

The publication of the Thin Paper Edition of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS being for the present week suspended, subscribers will please to notice that copies of this Number forwarded abroad must be prepaid according to the following rates:—Two pence to Africa (West Coast of), Alexandria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, China (via United States), Constantinople, Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Holland, Italy, Jamaica, Mauritius, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United States of America; and Three pence to China (via Brindisi), India, and the Transvaal. Newspapers for foreign parts must be posted within eight days of the date of publication, irrespective of the departure of the mails.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER

COLOURS.—The Hundred and Third Exhibition is NOW OPEN, 5, Pall-mall East, from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s.
ALFRED D. FRIPP, R.W.S., Secretary.

THE VALE OF TEARS.—DORÉ'S Last Great PICTURE, completed a few days before he died, NOW ON VIEW at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street, with his other great pictures. Ten to Six Daily. 1s.

ANNO DOMINI, by EDWIN LONG, R.A.—This great Work is NOW ON VIEW, together with other important works, at the GALLERIES, 108, New Bond-street. Ten to Six. Admission, 1s.

THE QUEEN AND LORD BEACONSFIELD. The great Historic Picture of HER MAJESTY GIVING AUDIENCE TO LORD BEACONSFIELD AT OSBORNE. Painted by Mr. Wigram from studies made by him at Osborne.—108, New Bond-street. Admission, 1s.

HER MAJESTY'S DRAWING-ROOM, painted by F. SERGEANT, 1883.—This great Picture just completed includes Portraits of her Majesty, their R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal Family, together with Ministers, Ambassadors, and the Nobility. NOW ON VIEW, at 175, New Bond-street, from Ten to Six. Admission One Shilling.

LYCEUM.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Henry Irving.

LYCEUM.—TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), at a Quarter to Eight, LOUIS XI.—Louis XI. Mr. Henry Irving. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, "The Merchant of Venice."—Shylock, Mr. Henry Irving; Portia, Miss Ellen Terry. Saturday next, May 16, "The Belle." Box-Office (Mr. J. Hurst), and Pit and Gallery Booking-Office, open daily, Ten to Five.

THE PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Mrs. LANGTRY. Sole Proprietor, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE. Season under the direction of Mr. HENRY E. ABBEY. EVERY EVENING, at 8.45, the successful Play, in four acts, adapted from Sardou's "Nos Intimes," by R. C. Stephenson and Clement Scott, entitled PERIL. Characters by Mr. Coghlan, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Everill, Mr. Carne, Mr. Crisp, Mr. Weatherly, Mr. Gratton, Mr. Thornbury; Mrs. Arthur Stirling, Miss Annie Rose, Miss Dacre, and MRS. LANGTRY. Doors open at 7.15. PERIL at 8.45. Preceded by, at 7.30, NINE POINTS OF THE LAW, by Tom Taylor. Carriages at Eleven. Box-Office open daily from Eleven till Five. No fees. Telephone 3700. Matinée of PERIL, SATURDAY NEXT, at a Quarter-Past Two. Doors open at a Quarter to Two. Carriages at Five.—THE PRINCE'S THEATRE, Coventry-street, W.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILSON BARRETT. EVERY EVENING, at 7.30, THE SILVER KING (by Henry A. Jones and Henry Herman). Produced under the sole direction of Mr. Wilson Barrett. Characters by Messrs. Wilson Barrett, Willard, Speakman, Cooper, Doone, Walton, Huntley, Fulton, Bernage, Gurth, De Solla, Foss, &c., and George Barrett; Messames Ormsby, Huntley, Dickens, Cook, &c., and Miss Eastlake. Doors open at Seven. Box-Office at 9.30 till Five. No fees. Telephone 3700. Private Boxes, one to nine guineas; Stalls, 10s.; Dress Circle, 6s.; Upper Boxes, 3s. Business Manager, Mr. J. H. Cobbe.

MRS. CONOVER'S BENEFIT MATINÉE, THURSDAY, MAY 14, at OLYMPIC THEATRE, on which occasion will be produced a New and Original Play, in Five Acts, by Mrs. Julius Pollock, entitled Characters by Messrs. James Fernandez, Lawrence Cantley, Ben Greet, W. T. Elworthy, F. Hamilton Knight, Cecil M. York, Jas. Ashley, Philip Beck, and MRS. ANNA CONOVER. Doors open at 2; commence at 2.30. Box Plan now open.—OLYMPIC THEATRE.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS' NEW AND ATTRACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT. EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT. MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, THREE AND EIGHT. Fanteils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. No fees of any description. Tickets and places can be secured at Austin's Office, St. James's Hall, from 9.30 till 6.30.

INTERNATIONAL INVENTIONS EXHIBITION, 1885. Patron.—H.M. the QUEEN. President.—H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, K.G. Admission to the Exhibition by Season Ticket daily, and by payment of 1s. every Week day, except Wednesday, when it is 2s. 6d. EVENING FETES, Illuminated Fountains, and Gardens Lighted every evening by many thousands of Electrical Glow Lamps. INTERNATIONAL INVENTIONS EXHIBITION, 1885.

HORSE SHOW, ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON.—Entries close MAY 25. SHOW OPENS JUNE 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Prize-Lists and Forms of Entry may be obtained on application to Offices, Bedford-street, Liverpool-road, Islington. R. VENNIE, Secretary, Royal Agricultural Hall Company, Limited.

MONTE CARLO.—SUMMER SEASON. The series of the Extraordinary Musical Entertainments having terminated with the Winter Season, the usual Concerts, directed by Mr. Romeo Accursi, will be continued daily until further notice.

SEA-BATHING AT MONACO.

Villas and Private Houses and Apartments for every taste, and at every price. The beach, like that of Trouville, is covered with the softest sand, and at the Grand Hotel des Bains comfortable apartments, with board, for families can be had at reasonable prices.

BRIGHTON.—Frequent Trains from Victoria and London Bridge.

Also Trains in connection from Kensington and Liverpool-street. Return Tickets, London to Brighton, available for eight days. Weekly, Fortnightly, and Monthly Tickets, at Cheap Rates. Available to travel by all Trains between London and Brighton. Cheap First-Class Day Tickets to Brighton every Weekday, from Victoria 10.0 a.m., fare 12s. 6d., including Pullman Car. Cheap Half-Guinea First-Class Day Tickets to Brighton every Saturday from Victoria and London Bridge, admitting to the Grand Aquarium and Royal Pavilion. Cheap First-Class Day Tickets to Brighton every Sunday from Victoria at 10.45 a.m. and 12.50 p.m., fare 10s. Pullman Drawing-room Cars between Victoria and Brighton. Through Bookings to Brighton from principal Stations on the Railways in the Northern and Midland Districts.

PARIS.—SHORTEST, CHEAPEST ROUTE.

VIA NEWHAVEN, DIEPPE, and ROUEN. Cheap Express Service Week-days and Sundays. From Victoria 7.50 p.m., and London Bridge 9 p.m. Fares—Single, 34s., 25s., 18s.; Return, 57s., 41s., 32s. Powerful Faddle Steamers, with excellent Cabins, &c. Trains run alongside steamers at Newhaven and Dieppe. SOUTH OF FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, &c.—Tourists' Tickets are issued, enabling the holder to visit all the principal places of interest. The Day Special Express Service will commence on June 1 for the season.

TICKETS and every information at the Brighton Company's West-End General Offices, 28, Regent-circus, Piccadilly, and 8, Grand Hotel Buildings; Hay's Agency, Cornhill; Cook's, Ludgate-circus; also at the Victoria and London Bridge Stations. (By order) J. P. ENIGAT, General Manager.

Sir Frederick Leighton, President of the Royal Academy, took the chair last Saturday evening at the annual dinner which precedes the opening of the exhibition to the public. The speakers included the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Northbrook, Earl Granville, and Sir John Lubbock, M.P.

CITY ECHOES.

Wednesday, May 6.

Prospects of peace have been paramount this week, and Stock Exchange securities have considerably recovered. Consols had been as low as 94½, and they are now 98. All affected securities equally improved, but the prospect of peace is against such considerations as were recently supporting the American market. We are warned against too readily assuming that Russian compliance is as complete as the circumstance requires, and corrective views of that sort are no doubt useful; but in the Stock Exchange the probability of peace revives "bulls," and frightens "bears." But the currents set in motion by the fear of war are not easily turned, and money accumulates at the Bank of England at an undiminished rate.

The Budget proposals are a taste of what war means. The income tax, which is now 5d., is to be raised to 8d., the duty on beer and spirits is to be increased, the stamp duty on debentures to bearer is to be advanced from 2s. 6d. per cent to 10s., and some other changes are to be made which, as they do not directly concern business interests, do not claim notice here. The suspension of the Sinking Fund of the National Debt is, however, greatly regretted by all who have the permanent interests of the country at heart. That Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Childers should resort to such an expedient is a striking comment upon their lifelong professions and practice.

Telegrams from Ottawa in regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway are to the effect that the Government have proposed to the Dominion Parliament the rearrangement of the conditions imposed by the Loan Act of last year, the rearrangement to include such further assistance as will enable the company to complete and adequately equip the road without recourse to the issue of shares or bonds. The 35,000,000 dols. unissued shares are to be cancelled, and 5 per cent bonds are to be created in lieu thereof. As regards the loan had of the Government, 20,000,000 dols. is to be secured by an equal amount of the 5 per cent bonds, and the balance is to rank, principal and interest, upon the land grant. The interest on the loan is to be reduced to 4 per cent. Further, the Government is to lend the company 5,000,000 dols. in 4 per cent Treasury bills for one year. We may assume that Parliament will agree to these proposals. In that case, the company's position on the completion of the road will be that the total charge for leased lines and interest per annum will not much exceed the net revenue which the current year is expected to yield, while the shareholders have, under the annuity arrangements, a sufficient dividend secured to them for several years.

That the Pennsylvania Railroad dividend should be 3 per cent need cause no surprise, as it is the same rate as was paid in November last, and is evidently the level intended to be observed during the present phase of business. Six per cent per annum is not a bad minimum for such times as United States railways have latterly gone through.

Mr. Eden Colville, at the meeting of the Royal Mail Steamship Company, made some rather important remarks concerning the valuation of the company's fleet. The amount written off for depreciation during the year was £84,863, reducing the value to £13 8s. per ton, and Mr. Colville stated that he was not sure that their ships would realise even that figure if put on the market. This valuation, it may be maintained, is considerably below the balance-sheet value of the fleets of most of the other shipping companies, the Cunard vessels being valued at £27 and the Orient at £26 per ton.

The severe drought which prevailed for such a lengthened period last year in Australia has told severely upon agricultural pursuits, and in the case of the Scottish-Australian Investment Company the shareholders have to submit to a reduction in the dividend to 10 per cent per annum for the past half-year, against 15 per cent for the previous twelve months, and 18½ for 1882-3.

But the Australian Banks are not suffering. The National Bank of Australasia has just declared a dividend of 15 per cent per annum, and if we may judge from the steady way in which the dividend has been raised during the past ten or twelve years, we may conclude that this new rate is expected to be retained.

T. S.

The Bishop of London presided on Monday at the meeting of the National Temperance League, in Exeter Hall.

Sufficient fragments have been discovered to prove that the vessel which contained the explosive used at the Admiralty a few days ago was what is known as a "stockpot" of cast iron, tinned inside and having a capacity of one gallon.

The vacancy in the headmastership of Harrow School, caused by Dr. Montagu Butler's acceptance of the Deanery of Gloucester, has been filled by the Rev. J. E. C. Weldon, M.A., Head Master of Dulwich College, and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. The election was unanimous.

The Mansion House fund for the provision of a national memorial to General Gordon amounts to over £16,000; and a lady has just endowed for a specified period an adult bed in the London Homœopathic Hospital in memory of the character and work of General Gordon.

Mr. T. Swinbourne presided on Tuesday over the annual meeting of those interested in the Royal General Theatrical Fund, in the saloon of the Lyceum Theatre. The financial statement showed that the income had amounted to £2155, and the expenditure to £2440. The balance-sheet showed that the capital account stood at £13,383.

Mr. H. H. Fowler, M.P., presided on Monday morning at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, at Exeter Hall, which was crowded. The report stated that the home receipts for the year had been £121,346, and the total receipts had been £146,308. The expenditure left the society with a surplus of £18. The missionaries and assistant missionaries, including supernumeraries, numbered 287.

At a meeting of the Victoria (Philosophical) Institute on Monday evening, Professor Duns, F.R.S.E., of Edinburgh, read a paper on "The Theory of Natural Selection and the Theory of Design," in which he held that the former can never be regarded as a substitute for the latter, because it fails to give a satisfactory explanation of the differences among closely related organisms, of their gradation and succession, and of the cause of variation and reversion, and other complex phenomena. A discussion followed.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, on May 1—the Duke of Northumberland, President, in the chair—the annual report of the Committee of Visitors for the year 1884, testifying to the continued prosperity and efficient management of the institution, was read and adopted. The real and funded property now amounts to above £85,400, entirely derived from the contributions and donations of the members. Forty-four new members paid their admission fees in 1884. Sixty-three lectures and twenty evening discourses were delivered in 1884. The books and pamphlets presented in 1884 amounted to about 276 volumes, making, with 506 volumes (including periodicals bound) purchased by the managers, a total of 782 volumes added to the library in the year.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

SECOND NOTICE.

Returning to the first room, the first picture to catch the eye is Mr. H. W. B. Davis's "Summer Twilight" (5), a flock of sheep peacefully grazing under a richly coloured sky. Just above hangs a promising work, "Ariadne Deserted by Theseus" (6), by Mrs. Rae, representing the forsaken beauty leaning against a rock, gazing in blank despair upon the sea. Another lady's picture, Miss M. Stokes's "Parting" (17), is a more homely treatment of the same sentiment: a little calf, with its legs already tied, is lying with its head on the lap of its child companion—a simple subject, treated with good taste and considerable power. Beneath it is Mr. Marcus Stone's only contribution of the year, "A Gambler's Wife" (18)—a pretty young woman in an extravagant hat, on the garden seat under a tree; in the background, on a raised terrace in front of the house (Gad's Hill, Dickens' favourite home), two children are playing in the warm sunshine of early summer, all around them seeming bright and beautiful. In another part of the garden the father is playing cards, not eagerly, but carelessly, with a few boon companions. The thought has just now, for the first time, struck the young wife that she has married a gambler, and that all the delights with which her life is now surrounded may be swept away without a word of warning. The artist translates this really dramatic idea with no little force, and has succeeded in telling a story which is none the less painful because he has concealed the thorn of the woman's life so skilfully beneath the roses. Mr. Briton Rivière's "Sheep-stealers" (24), by its grey-green colouring, recalls in some measure the work of the late Academician, Mr. Falconer Poole; but his meaning is more easy to fathom, and the action of the sheep scampering down the hillside in the cold moonlight is excellent. Mr. Frank Holl's portrait of "General Sir Arthur Lawrence" (25), in dark-blue uniform, and Mr. J. G. Breun's "Sir Redvers Buller" (27), in scarlet, are hung as companion pictures, and the latter is worthy of the honour conferred upon him. Mr. Solomon Solomon's "Love's First Lesson" (29) will disappoint many of those who anticipated so much from this young medallist's early work. It is, nevertheless, a bold attempt to cope with a difficult treatment of the nude, and the attitude of Cupid by his mother's side is full of infantile grace. Humour is seldom wanting in Mr. Stacy Marks' work, and his "Good Story" (30), a group of middle-aged gentlemen in powdered wigs, seated round a table, is no exception; the figure of the "parson," with his elbows on the table, is the best of all. It is scarcely as highly finished as is usual with Mr. Marks, but it has more movement. We pass over Mr. F. Morgan's "Ring a Ring of Roses" (32), Mr. Markham Skipworth's "Ready to Start" (35), Mr. Ernest Parton's "Streteley-on-Thames" (40) with regret, and can only say a short word of commendation of Mr. C. H. Macartney's poetic rendering of "Dartmoor" (51) in the twilight. Of Mr. J. E. Hodgson's huge canvas "Don Quixote and the Galley-Slaves" (39), we fail to appreciate either the humour or the technical skill. It does its best to travesty both Nature and Cervantes' hero, and to convey to the mind no reasonable suggestion of the one or the other. Mr. Dicksee's "Chivalry" (53), which, with apparently grim humour, has been hung as a pendant to Mr. Hodgson's "Don Quixote," is a painful effort to revive Venetian colouring. A girl in a rich blue dress, half torn from her body, is bound to a tree, and at a little distance a knight in full armour is placidly wiping the sword with which he has just slain another knight who is lying on the ground. Through the trees a green mystic light struggles with the natural tints of the setting sun, throwing a very unearthly glamour over the scene. It is a pity that Mr. Dicksee cannot curb his somewhat exuberant fancy, and return to the ways where he won his spurs.

Mr. Bernard Cameron's "Portrait of a Lady" (58), in a black dress on a dark ground, is very graceful in pose and strong in execution; whilst Mr. Frith's "Portrait of Mrs. Alfred Pope" (66), a lady in black velvet, a profusion of white lace and a red rose in her hair, at once clever and vulgar, is in painful contrast with Mr. Orchardson's quiet, dignified "Portrait of Mrs. Ralli" (72), also dressed in black, just relieved by her lace lappets and the roll of blue knitting. Mr. Yeames' "Prisoners of War" (67), two young middies brought ashore at a French port, and the object of mingled curiosity and pity on the part of the fisher men and women, cannot fail to be popular. The two boys—one defiant, the other a little sobered by his wound—are seated on some casks, under the guard of a huge gendarme. The fisher-folk are gathering round them; and one little girl is advancing in a simple yet coquettish way towards the boy scarcely bigger than herself, and seems anxious to throw over him her protecting power. The other works of this room which are worthy of notice are Mr. Peter Graham's "Evening" (73), Mr. G. A. Storey's "As Good as Gold" (78), and, among the younger artists, Mr. Frank Calderon's "Driving a Bargain" (60)—horses at a village inn; Mr. W. Dixon Galfrin's "Beatrice" (74)—a girl amongst flowers, very delicately coloured; M. Fantin's portrait of "Miss Budgett" (83), in a yellow dress; and Miss Dacre's "Passion-Flower" (86)—the study of a large-eyed sallow girl, sketched with a firm hand, and displaying considerable promise.

In the second gallery Mr. Fred. Brown again shows in "Our Playground" (92) that there are plenty of subjects worthy of the artist to be found in London streets, and especially on the Chelsea Embankment; and it is a somewhat abrupt transition to "Norway and the Sogne Fiord" (93), of which and its precipitous rocks descending into the grey water Mr. Normann has made such a careful study. Mr. E. Long's "Gunga" (100) is a repetition of one of those rich-blooded ladies who by turns have served as Syrians, Jewesses, or Egyptians, and who, decked with barbaric jewellery, inhabit palaces adorned with strange hieroglyphics; and one turns with relief to Mr. Burgess' touch of real life (106), a young Spanish girl attended by her duenna, issuing from church, and assailed by the clamorous appeals of half-a-dozen licensed beggars, embodying all the woes which flesh is heir to. Mr. Briton Rivière is scarcely so happy in "After Naseby" (107) as in some of his other works. It represents a room in a Cavalier's country house; the mistress has just received the news of the fatal fight, and, bent over the table, is giving vent to her feelings, sure only of the fidelity and secrecy of the two little dogs, watching her with obvious sympathy. It might be an interesting question whether the breed of King Charles' spaniels was known in this country before the Restoration—our own impression being that they were first introduced from Holland, if not still later by Louise de Querouailles from France. To return, however, to the pictures. Mr. J. Henry's "Flemish Pastures" (151) and Mr. J. Prinsep Beadle's "In the Pas de Calais" (105) have in common a sense of fresh air and an appreciation of sunlight not often met among our younger artists; and Mr. F. Markham Skipworth, another newcomer, who sends a "Portrait of Madame Campione" (108), deserves special notice. It represents a young and pretty woman, full face, dressed in a white satin dress trimmed with swan's-down, with a white rug at her back, and a white wall beyond—an admirable display of technical skill and harmonious colouring. Mr. John F. Faed

is another instance of an Academician's son giving good promise. His "Bleak North-easter" (112) does not attempt more than the artist is able to achieve: the grey sky and murky sea, with the waves breaking angrily on the rocks, are rendered with very great truth and feeling. Mr. Herkomer's "The Earl of Ducie" (119) and Mr. Holl's "Rev. Henry Latham" (119), happily act as derivatives to Mr. H. T. Wells's glaring and uninteresting panorama of "Purbeck, and its Quarries" (120). The two portraits serve to show the special attributes of their respective artists, and in each case they display repose and reserved force. Two works by Mr. J. C. Hook, "The Stream" (140) and "After Dinner, Rest Awhile" (146), a flock of cormorants resting after their mid-day meal on the seaweed-covered shore, are more free from the artist's peculiarities than usual, and are not for that cause less attractive. Mr. G. D. Leslie's "Language of Flowers" (141), two girls on a sofa with a basket of flowers on the ground, is one of those very carefully composed, carefully painted, meaningless works with which Mr. George Leslie is now willing to rest content: in contrast to Mr. Vicat Cole, who, in "Ifley Mill" (135), with its rushing rain-cloud and poplars shivering in the wind, is anxious to show that he can, when he likes, get beyond sunny corn-fields and wide-spreading wealds. Miss Alice Havers' "Divided" (134), Mr. Dendy Sadler's "Salad" (136), Mr. J. Faed's "Merely by Accident" (150), and Mr. Merritt's "Eve" (176)—in the first moment of horror-stricken remorse—are among the other most noteworthy works of this room.

Of the principal attractions of the third gallery we spoke in the previous article; for it is here naturally that one looks for the "pictures of the year." But a more careful inspection very often shows that a good many to which space is accorded belong to a very remote period, whilst others are so rewarded more on account of the size or subject of their pictures than for their artistic merit. Among the former we should place Mr. Goodall's mystical work (165). Mr. Sidney Cooper's "Fallen Oak" (159), Mr. Frith's "John Knox at Holyrood" (195) singularly deficient in either force or grace; Mr. Herbert's "Sheepfold" (220), and Mr. Horsley's daughters (287); and amongst the latter category such productions as Mr. Hicks's full-length portrait of "Mrs. Crosbie" (160), and its companion, Mr. John Collier's "Sir Thomas and Lady Boughey" (187), Mr. Lorimer's "Lord Reay" (238), and the like. Happily, all are not of the same calibre, and we turn with pleasure to such works as Mr. Frank Holl's triad of portraits, "The ex-Speaker of the House of Commons" (213), in his robes and wig, flanked on one side by "Lord Dufferin" (211) and on the other by "Dr. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia" (219), perhaps one of the most successful of Mr. Holl's productions. Dr. Weir is seated in an easy attitude, his legs crossed, and dressed in ordinary blue coat, with a light overcoat. Lord Dufferin is represented standing, three-quarter length, in a fur coat, with the ribbon and badge of the Order of St. Patrick just appearing. There is wanting in Lord Dufferin's expression just that sense of flexibility combined with firmness, which strikes everyone who knows the statesman's real face; but in the figure of the ex-Speaker, Mr. Holl has been more successful, catching that quiet, self-possessed dignity which distinguished him during his long tenure of office. In the full-length portrait of "Mr. Wilson Barrett as Hamlet" (203) Mr. Holl has, like his model, been anxious to get away from Kenble and Sir Thomas Lawrence, and with the similar result of producing something very commonplace in conception and very admirable in execution. Sir F. Leighton and Mr. Watts contribute two three-quarter length figures of young girls, which naturally suggest comparison. The President's anonymous lady (125), "serenely wandering in a trance of sober thought," is dressed in various shades of blue; whilst "Miss Laura Gurney" (201) is conspicuous by her red cloak trimmed with fur; and were it not for the force with which the face is painted, the costume would altogether eclipse the wearer. Mr. Watts, however, is too consummate an artist to make this blunder; and the result is that his work, conceived in a fuller key than the President's, places the latter, with its delicate shades, at a considerable disadvantage. The other portraits of this room are, by Mr. Oulless, those of "Mrs. Bruce" (177), very stately, and with far more character than he has displayed of late; "Dr. Kennedy" (164), wanting altogether in that bright humorous look of the original; "The Bishop of Worcester" (240), and "The Rev. Montague Taylor" (247), a pleasant floundering face; that of "Mr. David Carmichael" (255), by Mr. Wells; and of "Mr. Orchar" (185), by Mr. Pettie; and especially Mr. Farquharson's very graceful "Portrait of a Lady" (283) in a black dress, on a dark background, and only relieved by a single red feather. Mr. Farquharson has here struck a new vein, which he will not fail to find profitable, but we shall be sorry to lose him from the fields and moorlands where he has done so much good work. The two little companion pictures, "Lady Peggy Primrose" (275), by Mr. Millais, and "Lady Sibyl Primrose" (281), by Sir F. Leighton, though doubtless admirable likenesses, belong to almost a distinct range of art. In point of comparison, one cannot hesitate to award the preference to Mr. Millais' work as a type of real child life. The President's suggests already the young lady of fashion with her smooth hair, painfully neat dress, and best company manners; but Lady Peggy, worthy of her name, seems ready for a romp at any moment, and careless of the disorder in which she may be discovered. Mr. Faed returns to a style he once cultivated with so much success, and once more shows us the inside of a peasant's cottage, "When the Children are Asleep" (225), and their mother is deep in getting a few minutes quiet reading. The scene is a homely one, and the sentiment healthy; but one is inclined to ask whence, in the arrangement of a lowly cottage life, is the light obtained, since the careful mother has blown out the candle which hangs on the wall beside her. Mr. Wyllie's "Storm and Sunshine" (264) strives to reproduce a wellnigh impossible effect—a passing ray of sunlight on a ship's side, whilst all the rest of the hull and surrounding water is lashed by wind and rain. Sir John Gilbert's "Standard-Bearer" (269), in his buff leathern jerkin and steel breast-plate, seems a familiar figure, but one we are always glad to welcome; but Mr. Calderon's "Andromeda" (295), on a rock half covered by foam, is an honest attempt to deal originally with a familiar subject. In the details of his work—the white foam, the deep blue sea, and the flowing hair—Mr. Calderon displays both power and feeling, and the attitude of Andromeda is particularly graceful.

The drawings engraved and printed on two pages of our Supplement half-sheet represent the designs of some of the pictures in this year's Exhibition of the Royal Academy. Those of Mr. Marcus Stone, "A Gambler's Wife"; Mr. S. E. Waller, "Outward Bound"; Mr. Carrington, "Hamlet and Polonius"; and Mr. Stanhope Forbes, "A Fish Sale on Newlyn Beach," are the property of Messrs. Dowdeswell and Dowdeswell, fine-art publishers, New Bond-street, who intend to publish fine engravings of these pictures. We are indebted also to Messrs. Paul and Dominic Colnaghi, of Pall-mall East, for permission to copy the picture of "The First Step," by Mr. G. H. Swinstead, which has been purchased by them from the artist.

THE SILENT MEMBER.

The silver lining to the war cloud brightened the prospect on Monday; and that most sensitive financial barometer, the Stock Exchange, at once recorded the change. Consols, Russians, English railways, and all kinds of stock went up directly. Nevertheless, the Government, though naturally hopeful that the Arbitration agreed upon may result in a pacific settlement of the differences between Russia and England, wisely persevere with the Vote of Credit for Eleven Millions. Experience has proved that it is one thing to issue military orders from St. Petersburg, but quite another thing to get them obeyed to the letter by the independent and adventurous Russian Commanders on the frontier of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, pending the return to London of Sir Peter Lumsden and Colonel Stewart and Mr. Stephen, her Majesty's Ministers have had the opportunity of securing accurate information as to the topography of Penjdeh, Pul-i-Khisti, and of the adjacent country from the Special Artist of the *Illustrated London News* with the English Commission, Mr. William Simpson, who was consulted immediately on his arrival in the metropolis.

Earl Granville and Mr. Gladstone made the Arbitration arrangement known to the Lords and Commons in almost identical terms on Monday. But the Prime Minister's statement was the more explicit. Mr. Gladstone prefaced what he had to say on the Russian question by a quiet explanation of the satisfactory settlement with France of the little difficulty arising out of the illegal manner in which Nubar Pasha had suppressed the *Bosphore Egyptien*, at Cairo. As an *amende*, the ruffled feathers of the Gallic Consul would be smoothed by the Egyptian authorities, and the owners of the *Bosphore Egyptien* would be allowed to reopen the printing office. A distinct diplomatic victory for M. De Freycinet!

Ministerial cheers greeted Mr. Gladstone's opening words respecting the resumption of friendly relations with Russia in regard to the awkward Afghan frontier disagreement. The gist of the arrangement was that the British and Russian Governments "are ready to refer to the judgment of the Sovereign of a friendly State any differences which may be found to subsist in regard to the interpretation of the agreement between the two Cabinets on March 16, with a view to the settlement of the matter in a mode consistent with the honour of both States. . . . The two Governments are prepared, under these circumstances, to resume at once their communications in London on the delimitation of the Afghan frontier—on the main points of the line. The details of that line would be examined and traced on the spot by the Commission, on the conditions agreed upon. This negotiation, of which it would be quite premature in me to anticipate the result, will be much facilitated as regards her Majesty's Government by the more full and exact knowledge which, since the meeting at Rawul Pindi, they have possessed of the views of the Ameer on the points of the frontier, and likewise by topographical information which has reached the India Office. I may also say, on another point of interest, that the Russian Government have expressed their willingness to consider as to the removal of the Russian outposts when the Commissioners meet."

The inevitable "heckling" of the Premier over, Lord Randolph Churchill, the instant the Vote of Credit resolution came up for reconsideration, most inaptly and unreasonably declared "the Government of the Queen have made a base and cowardly surrender." A curious accusation, surely, when Mr. Gladstone persisted in his demand for the Eleven Millions in order to be prepared for War if we should, unfortunately, be driven into it by Russia! Mr. Henry Labouchere was, on his side, quite consistent in moving that the vote be reduced by four millions, for the calmly and serenely philosophic member for Northampton has no belief in the alleged Russian designs upon India. By a majority of 50—79 against 29 votes—did the House negative Mr. Labouchere's proposal. Mr. Trevelyan and Mr. Gladstone had then no difficulty in warding off the attacks of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett and Mr. A. J. Balfour; and lively exchanges succeeded between Mr. Gibson and Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Chaplin, Sir Stafford Northcote, and the Marquis of Hartington. The Opposition voted repeatedly for the adjournment of the debate, and was in a minority of 67 at the first division. In vain for a time did Mr. Gladstone stoutly maintain the urgent need of granting the vote for high Imperial purposes. Not till the small hours was the Vote of Credit at last carried by 130 against 20 votes.

Earl Delawarr's interposition as self-chosen leader of the Opposition gave rise to good-natured banter on the part of Earl Granville and the Marquis of Salisbury in the House of Lords, on Tuesday. But the Lower House was again the centre of most interest. There, apropos of Mr. Gladstone's statement that Sir Peter Lumsden and Colonel Stewart would return to London to take part in the delimitation conference, the Opposition sought to make capital by implying that the Government had submitted to a humiliating arrangement. The Premier was also very much pressed for papers, which cannot yet be supplied. In the course of the miscellaneous conversation, Mr. Gladstone parenthetically mentioned that "Communications have taken place between Lord Dufferin and the Ameer, and the whole matter assumes quite a different aspect." For the sake of the right hon. gentleman's peace of mind, it was, perhaps, lucky the Redistribution of Voters Bill came up for discussion. Sir Massey Lopes moved an amendment, to the effect that local rates should not be burdened with the expenses of the said registration, and secured so much support that he was only placed in a minority of three—his resolution being defeated by 240 against 237 votes. After the division, the House went into Committee on the measure.

Mr. Childers's portentous Budget was unfolded at wearisome length on the last evening in April. Why public time could not be saved by the circulation among members of tables of the statistics the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to present is a riddle. Briefly put, the Budget foreshadowed a total estimated expenditure for the ensuing year of £88,872,000, which, with the Eleven Millions Vote of Credit, totalled the good round sum of £99,872,000—or, close upon a Hundred Millions sterling! Comparing the estimated revenue with this colossal expenditure, there would be a total deficit of £14,932,000—"the largest deficit which has been placed before the House of Commons since the Crimean War." At the close of his protracted speech, Mr. Childers thus epitomised his proposals:—

The net deficit, calculating the income tax at 5d., is £14,912,000. We propose to intercept the action of the Sinking Fund by £4,600,000, to raise the income tax to 8d., producing £5,413,000; to alter death duties, thus raising £200,000; and to impose a duty on corp rate properties of £150,000. The increase in the spirit duty (2s. a gallon) will probably be £900,000, on the beer duty (1s. per barrel) £750,000, and the minor changes to which I have referred will produce £100,000, making a total of £12,160,000, and leaving a deficit of £2,812,000 to be met by a similar sinking fund operation during the coming year.

Sir Stafford Northcote's amiable criticism did not influence Lord Randolph Churchill, who, with much pungency and animation, reminded the Premier of his thrifty precepts in Midlothian. A bit Mr. Childers's resolutions were agreed to, it may be mentioned that the licensed victualling trade is up in arms against the new taxes on beer and spirits.



THE AFGHAN BOUNDARY DISPUTE: RUSSIAN TROOPS AT BAKU ON THEIR WAY TO CENTRAL ASIA.

FROM A SKETCH TAKEN AT BAKU, ON THE CASPIAN, APRIL 13, BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. W. SIMPSON.

THE PLAYHOUSES.

Mr. J. L. Toole has turned the Japanese mania to excellent account at his merry little theatre. The "Great Tay-Kin," as the slight extravaganza is called, is not, as everybody expected it would be, a good-natured parody of the Gilbert-Sullivan opera at the Savoy, but merely a bright vaudeville written by Mr. Arthur Law, musically illustrated by the popular George Grossmith, and that has for its scene the Japanese Village down at Knightsbridge, that since the play was produced has unfortunately been burned to the ground. What is sauce for the goose is never sauce for the gander in matters dramatic. Mr. Wyndham and others, whenever they venture to draw their material from the French theatres, are invariably taken to task on account of the "motive" on which the majority of these plays are based. It grievously shocks our critical Chadbands when on the stage they observe a husband escaping from the fetters of a termagant wife, or the peace of the domestic household in any way disturbed. Now, no one would for a moment suspect Mr. Arthur Law, the mainstay of the German Reed entertainment, of using his talent for anything but a healthy purpose, or would select Mr. Toole's theatre, that pure home of honest comedy and farce, as the place where anything vicious in dramatic literature could be found. Perish the thought! And yet it has not been pointed out, with any amount of virtuous indignation, that the hero of the new farce is actually a married man, who at a ball at the Kensington Townhall appoints to meet one of his pretty partners at the Japanese Village, forgetting for the moment that his wife might not consider such a line of conduct wholly praiseworthy on his part. As a matter of fact she does not, for Mrs. Gandy pursues her husband in the person of the terrified Mr. Toole, and forces him to dress up as a conjuror in order to escape from the clutches of his indignant spouse. Such things are admissible in all farces. They hurt no one, and even the young "lady of fifteen" would not blush to see Mr. Toole, gorgeously arrayed, flirting with Miss Linden in the Japanese Village, posing as a bigamist in the most audacious fashion, and only earning marital reconciliation after having discovered that honest Mrs. Gandy is almost as skittish as her better half. As yet, no anathemas have fallen on the devoted head of Mr. Toole for enacting a highly comic Lothario, but on the other hand he has been generously thanked for a most amusing and characteristic performance. Mr. E. D. Ward and Miss Emily Thorne sing some capital songs and duets; Mr. Toole has, of course, more than one comic solo; and the play is further enlivened by a very clever conjuring performance by a pretty young lady attired in a Japanese costume. Mr. H. J. Byron's unfinished play, that has been completed by Mr. J. Ashby Sterry, is in active rehearsal, and will be the next important production at Mr. Toole's theatre.

The gentlemen of the modern pit certainly settle their differences with theatrical managers in a far more courteous fashion than did their ancestors. Everyone must have been struck with the good sense that prevailed at the Lyceum on the evening of Mr. Henry Irving's first appearance after his American tour—an evening, also, on which the experiment of a "booked pit" was tried for the first time at that theatre. If we were to believe all we hear about "first-night wreckers," and gangs and cliques and organisations and "pit rowdism," it is quite certain that the performance of "Hamlet" would not have passed off as quietly as it did. As was proved afterwards, there were hundreds present who entertained a very strong feeling on the pit question; but they never allowed their voices to be heard until the correct moment. Mr. Irving received a splendid welcome home; Miss Ellen Terry was cheered to the echo; the play was listened to with earnest attention; and it was not until the close of the manager's speech that the pent-up feelings of the pit poured forth, and "a scene" occurred of a very remarkable kind. It was literally "a house divided against itself," and Mr. Irving stood, patiently, the buffer between the rival factions of "new pit" and "old pit." It is extraordinary to some that there should possibly be two opinions on an innovation designed for the convenience of the public, and which has cost the manager a great deal of money. The new pit at the Lyceum, luxuriously cushioned and fitted, is the cheapest form of entertainment in the metropolis. Nowhere can such a good entertainment be enjoyed in greater comfort. Although it is never well to "look a gift-horse in the mouth," there are some practical difficulties in the way that do not concern the general public, but disturb the equanimity of the "first-nighter." This enthusiastic individual, who takes such an active and unselfish interest in the drama, has been in the habit of taking his place at the pit doors some hours before the performance begins on every evening of a new theatrical performance, and has thereby obtained a coveted seat. To this he did not object. He finds now that he has to suffer the same kind of inconvenience in order to book a seat, only the temporary struggle is transferred from five o'clock in the afternoon to five o'clock in the morning! For the first night of "Hamlet" there was just as great a crowd to book seats as there used to be to get into the pit, and it is urged that cock-crow is not a comfortable hour for squeezing for tickets. Presumably, this difficulty can easily be got over by the management, for Mr. Irving has generously said that all he wants to do is to please his patrons, and he has before now distinctly recognised the generous support he has received from the pit. There is also ranking in the mind of the "first-nighter" the fear that a booked pit may, in some theatres, mean a packed pit, and a dread lest the actor should lose the enthusiasm and the pulse of sympathy that come from theatre-goers who sacrifice considerable comfort for their pleasure. However, time, that works wonders, will settle the question one way or another. If the new pit is not popular, it is easy enough to go back to the old. A very popular compromise to the majority of first-nighters would be to allow places to be booked for every night except the first night. But this is exactly the night that the manager requires to be free from excitement, and the very time when he hopes for quiet and order, considering that the play is on its trial and the actors are extremely nervous. Mr. Irving behaved with admirable tact, and concluded a successful evening with one of the happiest quotations I ever remember to have heard as an impromptu. "So, gentlemen, with all my love I do commend me to you: and what so poor a man as Hamlet is may do to express his love and friendship to you, God willing, shall not lack!" This sentence secured peace instantly; indeed, I would go so far as to say it settled the question. Never has Henry Irving played Hamlet so well. He delighted even those who are opposed to his method. He has come back from America a far better actor than when he left us, and these revivals will now acquire a new interest. Ellen Terry, younger and brighter than ever, played Ophelia with the old charm, and the whole company appears to have returned full of vigour and eager for work in the old country.

Saturday next is to be a great day at Oxford University. The once celebrated Philothespian Wandering Dramatic Club has blossomed forth into the Oxford University Dramatic Society, which select body, under the direct sanction of the Vice-Chancellor and Heads of Houses, will play the first part of Shakspeare's "King Henry the Fourth" at the Oxford

Townhall. Mr. A. Bouchier, the leading spirit of Oxford theatricals, and an excellent actor to boot, is cast for Harry Hotspur, and the characters of Lady Mortimer and Mrs. Quickly will be taken by Lady Edward Spencer Churchill and Lady St. Leonards. Mr. Godwin has passed the scenery and dresses as "archæologically correct"; and it is believed that the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Jowett, Mr. John Ruskin, and many other celebrated people, will be present. Mr. Henry Irving has half promised to go down to the morning performance on May 12.

The "Matinée fever" has already set in with extra severity. Dr. Sebastian Evans, a scholar and a writer of pure, nervous English, attracted by the brilliancy of Pailleron's comedy, "Le Monde où l'on s'ennuie," has been undeceived in his idea that the public is attracted by plays that are more celebrated for their dialogue than their action, and has unfortunately handed over his clever work to the tender mercies of some well-intentioned but inexperienced amateurs. The result at a Gaiety matinée was disappointing to those who can appreciate the wit of Pailleron and the literary skill of Dr. Evans. Elsewhere, trial-trips have been made of plays burning for a public hearing. The "Great Pink Pearl," written by Mr. Carton and Mr. Cecil Raleigh, and the "Road to Fame," a German comedy, have been produced, respectively, at the Olympic and the Vaudeville with more or less success. It is impossible that full justice can be done to these tentative efforts. They are seldom well rehearsed and often badly cast, and the result is seldom satisfactory. C. S.

MUSIC.

THE CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY, DRURY-LANE THEATRE. Mr. A. Goring Thomas's new opera, "Nadeshda," was given for the third and fourth times last week, and on Saturday evening, his earlier work, "Esmeralda," was performed for the first and only time this season. It (like "Nadeshda") was commissioned specially by Mr. Carl Rosa, and was first brought out, also at Drury-Lane Theatre, in 1883. Last Saturday's cast was almost identical with that of previous occasions; having included Madame Georgina Burns in the title-character, Mr. B. McGuckin as Phœbus de Chateaupers, Mr. Ludwig as Claude Frolo, Mr. B. Davies as Gringoire, Mr. L. Crotty as Quasimodo, and Mr. Szazelle as the King of the Beggars. The opera—skillfully conducted by Mr. Randegger—was favourably received throughout.

The specialty of this week, was the production on Thursday, for the first time in London, of the English version of M. Massenet's "Manon," which was brought out by Mr. Carl Rosa's Company at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, last January, when, as again here, Madame Marie Roze sustained the title-character, Mr. Maas having been cast for the part of the Chevalier Des Grieux in the Drury-Lane performance of the work. Of this we must speak next week. "Nadeshda" was announced for the sixth, seventh, and eighth times during this week.

In consequence of the favourable reception of "Esmeralda" last Saturday, it is to be given again next week.

The Crystal Palace inaugurated the summer season by a grand concert in the Handel orchestra last Saturday afternoon, when Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" was given with fine effect by an augmented band and a chorus of about six hundred voices, Madame Valleria, Miss M. Fenna, and Mr. E. Lloyd having been the solo vocalists. The second part of the concert consisted of a miscellaneous selection, in which the same solo singers appeared. Mr. Manns conducted.

Señor Sarasate gave the second of his four grand orchestral concerts at St. James's Hall last Saturday afternoon, when his finished and brilliant violin performances were heard in Beethoven's concerto, and smaller pieces by Giurand and the executant. The concert included orchestral works rendered by a full band, conducted by Mr. W. G. Cusins. The third concert takes place next Monday afternoon.

The second of the new series of Richter concerts at St. James's Hall, took place on Monday evening, when very fine performances of more or less familiar orchestral pieces were given.

The Royal Amateur Orchestral Society gave a concert at the Royal Albert Hall last Saturday evening, when the programme included a violin solo by the Duke of Edinburgh, piano solos by Mrs. Beddington, Rombert's Toy Symphony, and vocal pieces by Miss F. Hipwell and Mr. Isidore De Lara. Mr. G. Mount conducted. The performances were given in aid of the funds of St. Michael and All Angels', North Kensington.

The fifth concert, and last but one of the present season, of the Philharmonic Society took place during this week. The programme comprised Dvorák's pianoforte concerto in G (Herr F. Rummel being the pianist), a selection from Berlioz's "Romeo and Juliet" music, and other more familiar items.

The 147th anniversary festival of that excellent institution the Royal Society of Musicians took place at St. James's Hall last Thursday evening, when the eminent baritone, Mr. Santley, was announced to preside.

Madame Jenny Viard-Louis, the eminent pianist, gave the first of her third series of performances of Beethoven's music at Prince's Hall on Thursday week.

That accomplished pianist Mdlle. Kleeberg announced a recital for this (Saturday) afternoon at St. James's Hall.

Mr. Charles Hallé will begin a new series of his interesting "Chamber-Music Concerts" at Prince's Hall this (Saturday) afternoon.

The miscellaneous concerts of the week have also included those of Miss A. Goodwin (pianist), Misses A. Hickling and B. Watson (violinist and pianist), Mr. Sinclair Dunn (vocalist), Mr. G. Gear (pianist), Mr. W. Nicholl (vocalist), and Madame Dukas's pupils.

The conversazione by which the Sacred Harmonic Society supplements its concert season was to take place yesterday (Friday) evening at Prince's Hall, and in the adjoining galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

Mr. Geaussen's choir will give an interesting concert at St. James's Hall next Wednesday evening, when a "Patriotic Hymn," composed by Herr Anton Dvorák, will be performed for the first time, conducted by the composer; the programme comprising also Mr. Mackenzie's cantata, "Jason," and the finale from Mendelssohn's unfinished opera, "Loreley." A full band and chorus are engaged, and Madame Albani, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley will be the solo vocalists.

Madame Frickenhaus and Herr Joseph Ludwig will resume their chamber concerts next Thursday evening at Prince's Hall.

A Balfie commemoration concert is to be given at the Royal Albert Hall on May 27, in which Madame Nilsson, Madame Minnie Hauk, Madame Trebelli, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Foli, and Mr. Joseph Maas, with a full band and chorus under the direction of Mr. W. G. Cusins, will take part.

Miss A. Wilson's soirée dramatique d'invitation took place on Wednesday, at the Cavendish Rooms, the programme including "The Happy Pair," "Our Bitterest Foe," and scenes from "The School for Scandal."

MAP OF THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

A Map of the World, "on Mercator's Projection," showing all the British Possessions coloured Red, with statistical tables of their population, revenue, import and export trade, and the distance of their chief ports from England, is presented for this week's Extra Supplement to the *Illustrated London News*. The British Red covers a vast space of the land surface of the globe, and so does the Russian Yellow; but we might cut off all the breadth of North America and North Asia above the 60th degree of latitude, excluding the larger proportion of territory belonging to the two Empires in those regions, without much affecting their influence over human civilisation. It is true that shores and seas near the Arctic Circle may be valuable for their whaleries, sealeries, and fisheries, and for the furs and other animal products supplied by lands whose climate forbids the cultivation of the soil; but for political and social considerations the temperate zones north and south of the Equator contain all that need be taken into account. India, the greatest in population of the dependencies of this realm, has a semi-tropical position in geography, and is thereby capable of more variety of productions, in more abundance, than perhaps any other country on earth; yet China, with the Annamese, Siamese, and Burmese States of Eastern Asia, is scarcely less favoured in this respect, viewed together as a distinct region. Wealth and power, in general, depend on the numbers and the faculties of the population, and not at all on the extent of territory. Queen Victoria, as Empress of India, has 198,790,853 subjects under the direct rule of her Government, while the Native Indian States protected or controlled by her Empire contain 55,150,456 other people. This is a great fact in the present condition of mankind; but a fact of greater importance for the future of the English nation is the situation of our principal Colonies, in North America and in Australasia, just in those latitudes where nature invites and fosters the vigorous growth and multiplication of our race. The Canadian Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, stretching across the Western Continent at its widest part, is already the home of nearly five millions of people, as strong in character as any in the world; the colonies of Australia and New Zealand, reckoned altogether, have above three millions; and there are a quarter of a million of European race in the South African colonies. It is probable that the total English population of those countries, judging by the example of the United States of America, will amount to something like fifty millions at the end of fifty years from this time. We need not speculate very anxiously upon their political destinies, for they will assuredly take good care of their own welfare, and require none of our advice.

The remainder of the British colonies and dependencies may be divided into three different classes; namely, such as were anciently styled "plantations," where tropical produce, sugar and coffee for instance, is cultivated by negro or other fit labour, for the profit of European proprietors; secondly, commercial marts and ports, at the maritime gateways of the most productive foreign regions; and thirdly, naval and military stations, the sites of which should be chosen with a view to the protection of commerce. Upon grounds of true national policy, no remote territorial possession that is not capable of answering one of these three useful purposes can be worth its cost; but there are very few existing British possessions of which the negative can be affirmed. The British West Indies, including the islands and the territory of Demerara, or British Guiana, on the South American continent, Mauritius, Ceylon, the Borneo Settlements, and the Fiji Islands, are comprised in the first class, that of plantation colonies. The settlements on the West Coast of Africa, the Malacca Straits Settlements—of which Singapore is the chief, a place of immense value to our trade—and Hong-Kong, the key of English interests in China, with several other places familiar enough to the mercantile world, come under the second head; and there is a just demand that the safety of these places shall be ensured by sufficient provision for their naval and military defence. In the third class of British possessions, which should be maintained especially for the security of those above enumerated, and of our immense traffic on the high seas, we have the naval and military establishments of Bermuda, in the Atlantic Ocean; Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and some in the West Indies; Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus, in the Mediterranean and in the Levant; Aden, at the entrance to the Red Sea; Simon's Bay, at the Cape; Sierra Leone, Ascension, and St. Helena; Mauritius and Trincomalee, in the Indian Ocean; Hong-Kong, for the Chinese archipelago; and for the vast Pacific Ocean, very inadequate provision at Sydney, and a neglected dockyard at Esquimalt, Vancouver Island. We do not hesitate to say that the deficiency of fortifications, of garrisons, and of accommodation for naval forces, with the fewness and defencelessness of the coaling stations, in the Indian Ocean, in the Chinese seas, and in the Pacific, exposes British interests to extreme danger in case of war. The necessity of providing a remedy for this state of affairs is quite as urgent as that of strengthening the British fleet; and twenty millions sterling judiciously bestowed upon it would be money well laid out.

The Earl and Countess of Aberdeen opened the eighth Home for Working Boys in Whitehead's-grove, Chelsea, last Saturday.

There is an excellent programme for May at the Royal Victoria Hall and Coffee Tavern, Waterloo Bridge-road.

His Highness Abdul Rahman Khan, Ameer of Afghanistan and its Dependencies, has been appointed an Honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India.

The anniversary dinner of the Royal Literary Fund took place at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday; Lord John Manners, M.P., occupying the chair.

The Earl of Dartmouth opened last Saturday the new public swimming-baths at Dartmouth-road, Forest-hill, erected by the Baths Commissioners at a cost of £9000.

The annual ball in aid of the funds of the Popular Ballad Concert Committee will be held this year under Royal patronage on Monday, June 8, at Kensington Townhall; and the Royal Caledonian ball will take place on June 22, at Willis's Rooms.

We gave some illustrations of the triumphal arches in the city of Belfast on the occasion of the Royal visit. Those in Glengall-place and in York-street were constructed by Messrs. S. Wilson and Co., of Belfast, who also supplied the decorations for some of the public buildings.

Mrs. Henry Lee, of Savile-row, Burlington-gardens, will give an "At Home" next Tuesday, and during the evening Dr. Samuel Kinns, F.R.A.S., author of "Moses and Geology," will lecture upon The Harmony of the Bible with Science, illustrated with numerous diagrams and geological specimens. A distinguished company is expected.

It is mentioned, in the account of the war in the Soudan that huts are now being erected for the troops remaining at Souakim. Messrs. David P. Moir and Co., of the Willemsden Paper and Canvas Depot, Cannon-street, have received from the War Office an order for 10,000 yards of 54-inch Willemsden roofing. This material is weather-proof, a non-conductor of heat, and never harbours vermin; while it is much lighter and easier to fix than corrugated iron.

BURNING OF THE JAPANESE VILLAGE.

On Saturday morning, unfortunately when the London season is beginning, and all the pleasant novelties in town are eagerly visited by crowds of sightseers, the pretty model of a Japanese village at Kensington was destroyed by an accidental fire. We lately gave some description and a few Sketches of this interesting establishment, which was the property of Mr. Tannaker Bulicrossan, and was erected at the back of Humphreys' Hall, nearly opposite the Guards' Barracks in the Knightsbridge-road. The group of temporary structures, which had been put up in seven weeks, being of the flimsiest material and most inflammable, blazed up and was consumed in about half an hour. Our Illustrations show the remains of the principal entrance, and of the side entrance, after the roof had fallen in. The chief building, if it may be called a building, part of which consisted of two floors, was 150 ft. by 140 ft. in dimensions: it contained a great variety of articles imported at large expense from Japan, and the proprietor reckons his loss at £15,000, of which only £5000 was insured. The poor Japanese work-people and their families were happily able to escape, with one exception, a young man named En-nemi, a woodcarver, who perished. Mr. Bulicrossan, with much spirit, has resolved to create the village anew, while liberal provision is made by him, with the assistance of Mr. Alexander, of Notting-hill, for the relief of those distressed strangers, whose wages will not be stopped. We hope that, when the show is restored and reopened, public favour will be so continued and increased towards it as to make some compensation for the heavy loss which has been incurred. The fine new buildings called Humphreys' Hall Mansions, the ground-floor of which is occupied by Messrs. Spiers and Pond's restaurant, and the upper floors by private residential apartments, sustained great internal damage, and some injury was done to other adjacent premises.

The Poule d'Essai (French Two Thousand) was won at Paris on Sunday by M. A. Lupin's Xaintraillies. Five to one was laid on the winner.

At a meeting of the Portsmouth Town Council on Tuesday Mr. Alderman Whitcombe, who subscribed £2000 towards the establishment of a scholarship in the Royal College of Music, was presented with his portrait, in recognition of his liberality.

In London last week 2561 births and 1549 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 275, and the deaths 174 below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years.

The marriage of the Hon. Ronald Leslie Melville, half-brother and heir-presumptive of the Earl of Leven and Melville, and Miss Portman, eldest daughter of the Hon. William Henry Berkeley Portman, M.P., took place on Wednesday.

The Earl of Suffolk presided on Tuesday morning at a council meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture. It was resolved that the £20,000 proposed by the Government towards the cost of registration was wholly inadequate, and Sir Massey Lopes' resolution was supported by the council. Other resolutions condemnatory of the Budget were passed.—At a council meeting of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, held the same day, it was decided to hold a dairy conference at Nantwich on Thursday, June 4, and at Chester on the following Saturday, the intermediate day to be devoted to visiting dairy farms and factories in the neighbourhood.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

Lord Wolseley, the Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Souakim this day week (Saturday), and communicated to Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Graham, commanding the army there, the present intentions of our Government with regard to military movements. What these may be is not exactly known; and something may have been left for Lord Wolseley to determine, or to advise Government upon the matter; but there is apparently to be no further advance, and great part of the troops on the Red Sea coast are being withdrawn. The hostile Arabs have begun to attack the unfinished railway, setting fire to the wooden "sleepers" and tearing up the rails, in which operations they have once or twice been caught and punished by patrol detachments of our soldiers. It is believed that Osman Digna, with his followers of the Haddendowa tribe, has returned to Tamai or to Tamaniab, and there is some talk of a fresh expedition from Souakim to disperse the enemy once more. It is expected that the garrison to be left at Souakim will consist of the Berkshire and Surrey Regiments and the Indian contingent. The Jumna, which had started for India with eleven hundred coolie labourers returning home, is called back from Aden, and they are to be employed in putting up huts for the troops, but the precise locality of the summer encampment on the hills is not yet known to have been fixed.

Our Special Artist, Mr. Walter Paget, contributes the Sketches of the horse-shoeing forge attached to the battery of field-artillery which forms part of the Australian (New South Wales) volunteer contingent at Souakim; an interior view of the first zereba on the route to Handoub, with the timber block-house in the background, surmounted by the heliograph signalling apparatus; and the figures of two friendly natives, of the Amara tribe, employed as runners by Mr. Huyshe, the *Times'* correspondent.

The health of the troops on the Upper Nile, especially at Debbeh, is reported to be suffering greatly from the climate, the heat being 120 degrees, and there are many cases of enteric fever. It is said that the revolt in Kordofan against the rule of the Mahdi is gaining strength, and his deputy at Obeid is closely besieged, so that no approach of the enemy to the Egyptian border is any longer to be feared.

At the annual meeting of the trustees of Shakspeare's birthplace at Stratford-on-Avon last Tuesday it was reported that during the past year over 13,000 persons had signed their names in the visitors' book.

Mr. Spencer Charrington, of the firm of Charrington and Co., brewers, Mile-end, has consented to preside at the seventy-ninth anniversary festival of the Licensed Victuallers' School, to take place at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday, June 30.

According to the quarterly return of the Registrar-General, the population of the United Kingdom, in the middle of 1885 is estimated at 36,325,115 persons: that of England and Wales at 27,499,041, of Scotland at 3,907,736, and of Ireland at 4,918,338. In the United Kingdom the births of 293,248 children, and the deaths of 196,760 persons, were registered in the three months ending March 31. The recorded natural increase of population was thus 96,488. The registered number of persons married in the quarter ending Dec. 31 last was 140,974. The birth rate in the United Kingdom in the first quarter of 1885 was 32.7, and the death rate 22.0 per 1000. The marriage rate in the fourth quarter of 1884 was 15.6 per 1000.

ALICE AYRES.

Death has taken from this world the humble heroine of a domestic tragedy; the brave young woman who stayed on the second floor of a burning house, attempting to save three children by dropping them from the window, having first thrown out a mattress that they might fall softly, and who received mortal injuries in descending after them. Alice Ayres, the sister of Mrs. Chandler, living with the family at 194, Union-street, the oilman's shop, at the corner of Gravel-lane, in the Borough, performed this act of courageous self-devotion on Friday, the 24th ult.; and it was mentioned in our last. She had slept in a room with her three little nieces, Edith, aged five, Ellen, four years old, and Elizabeth, three years old, when she was aroused by the noise of the fire at a quarter past two in the morning. Her first thought, as the staircase was in flames, was to lower the children into the street by tying them to the sheets which she fastened together; but this would not do, and she then cast out the mattress, and let the three little girls, one after another, fall upon it. This was a desperate expedient, and it did not entirely succeed, for the youngest child was killed, but there seemed no other chance of rescue. The parents, Henry and Mary Ann Chandler, with a boy, Harry, their eldest child, six years of age, perished in another part of the house, apparently by suffocation. When Alice Ayres had done what she thought was best to save the little girls, she let herself drop from the window; but, striking in her fall against something which turned her aside from the mattress beneath, she was terribly injured, and died within twenty-four hours after her removal to Guy's Hospital. Of the whole family, only Edith and Ellen were saved. A Portrait of Alice Ayres, who was twenty-six years of age, and unmarried, is given in this Number of our Journal. Her funeral, in Isleworth Cemetery, was attended by a large assembly of people; sixteen of the Fire Brigade bore the coffin, and twenty young girls, dressed in white, brought flowers to the grave.

Mr. Horatio Davis was on Monday elected without opposition a member of the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Cheap, in the room of the late Mr. Wheeler.

It is stated that the Bank of England has purchased for £30,050 the site of the Cock Tavern and the vacant land in Fleet-street, between Chancery-lane and the Law Courts, for the erection of new buildings for the accommodation of the large business in connection with the Courts of Justice.

Under the patronage of Mr. Henry Burnley Heath, Consul-General for Italy, the annual Italian ball (evening and fancy dress), for the benefit of the French Hospital and the Italian Benevolent Society, will be held next Tuesday at Freemasons' Hall.

Mrs. Gladstone gave a breakfast to about three hundred unemployed dock labourers at Wapping on Tuesday, and afterwards addressed a few words of sympathy to the men. The Marquis of Lorne, who was among the speakers, alluded to the best means of relieving the distress. He recommended emigration.

The receipts on account of Revenue from April 1, 1885, when there was a balance of £4,993,207, to May 2, 1885, were £9,656,247, against £8,173,666 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £5,632,569. The net expenditure was £9,664,580, against £7,632,192 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on May 2 amounted to £5,009,103, and at the same date in 1884 to £5,740,312.

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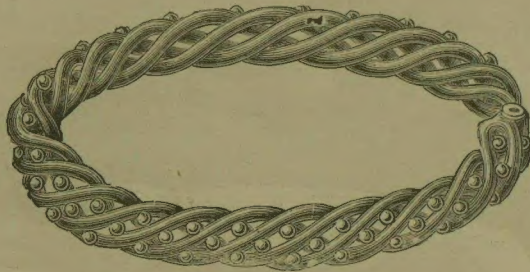
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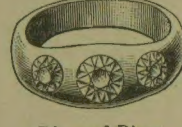
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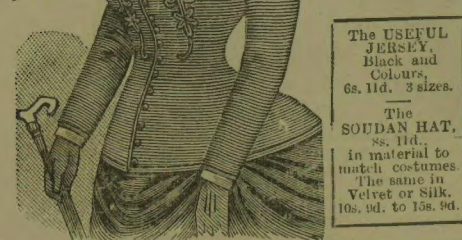
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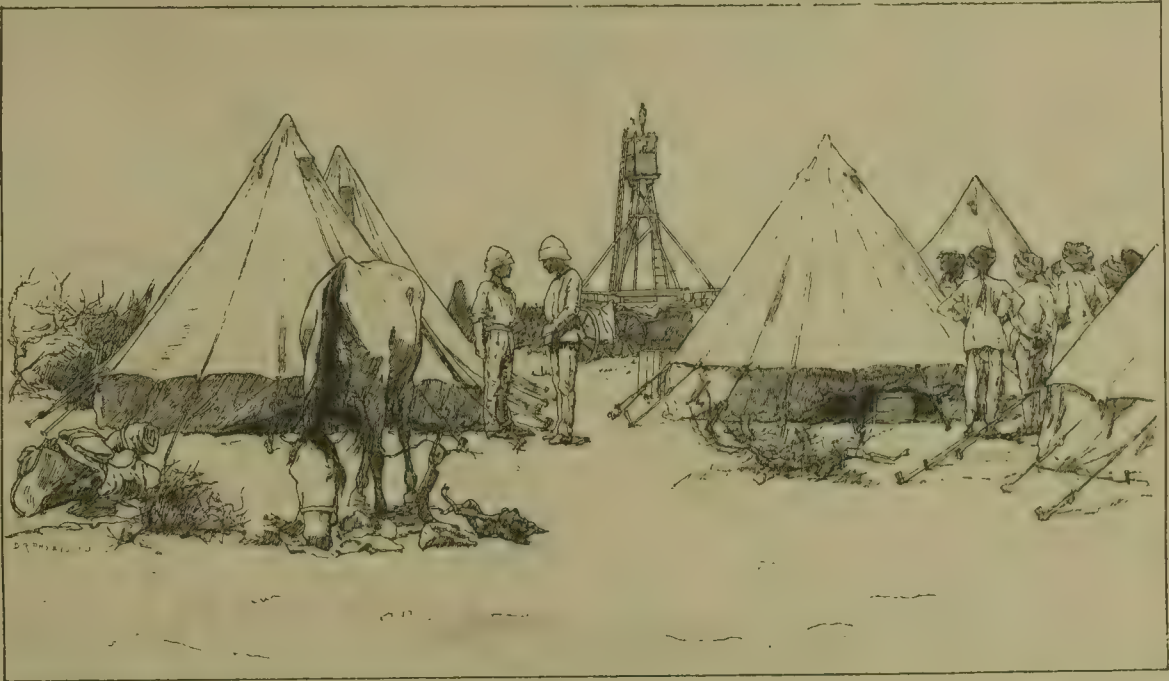
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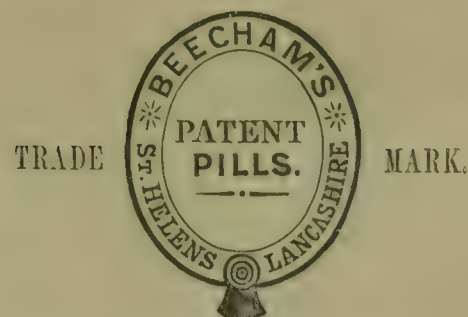
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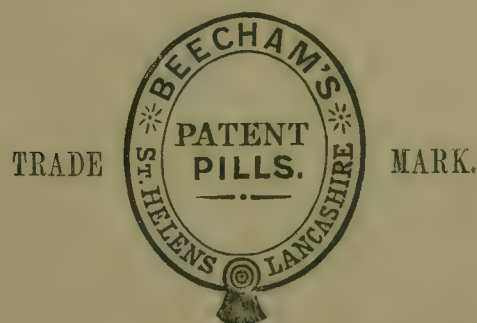
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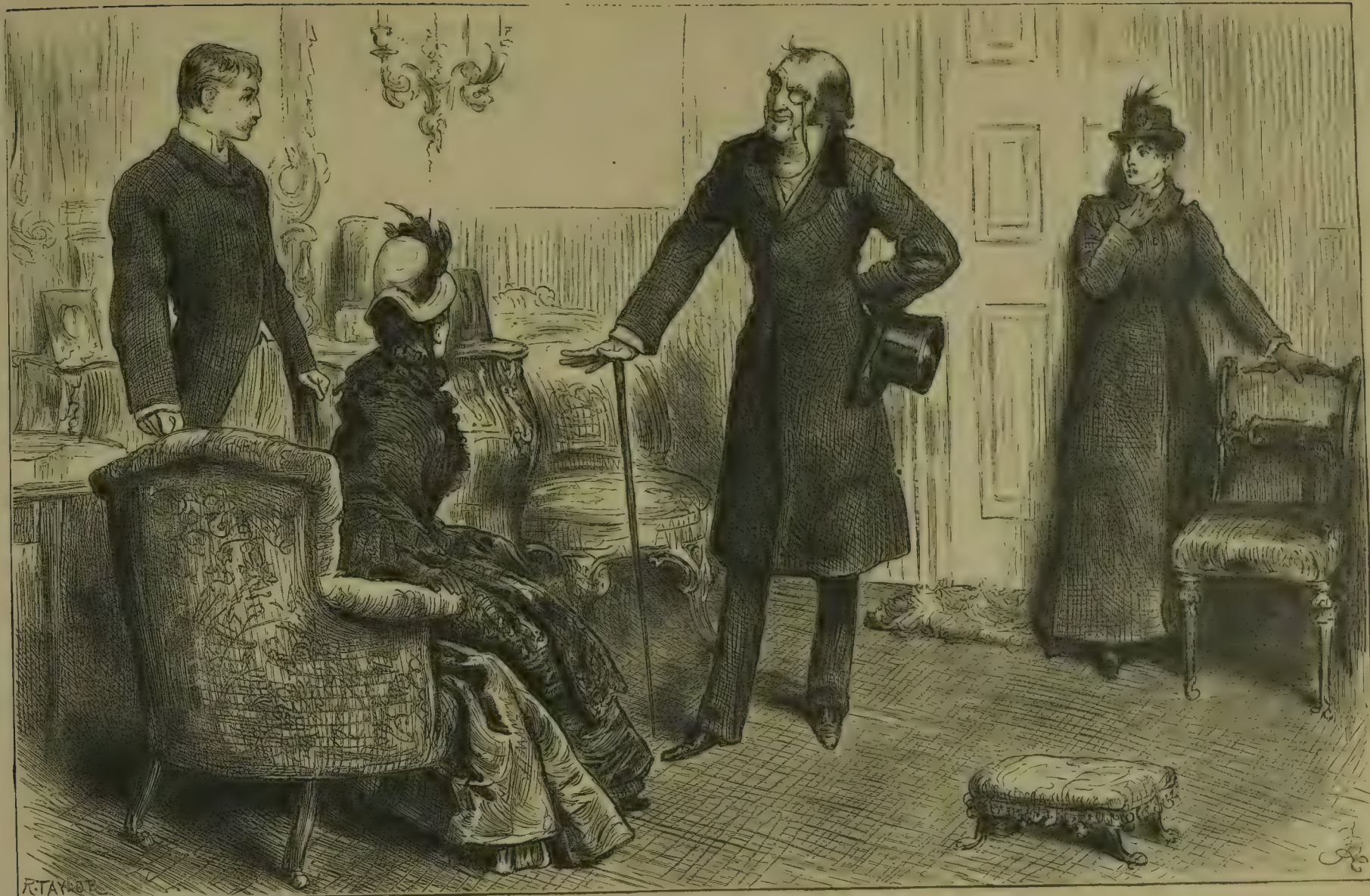
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CHAPTER XXX.

AN UNLUCKY DAY.

Clare, meanwhile, had been making acquaintance with the vicissitudes of travel. When the train reached Swindon, it became evident that something had gone wrong. There was more than the usual bustle going on upon the platform; the railway officials were clustered together in a group, and the passengers were excitedly telling one another—as passengers always do when an unexpected delay occurs—that there had been a frightful accident and appalling loss of life. Clare could get no coherent information out of her fellow-travellers; but presently the guard into whose charge Adrian had committed her came up, and asked: "Was you the lady as booked for St. Colomb-road, m'm?"

Clare said, "Yes; has there been an accident?"

"Not to say an accident, m'm; but there's been a bit of a landslip somewheres down the line, and I doubt they won't get it clear afore night. You see, if you was going no further than Plymouth, m'm, we might be able to get you there later; but as 'tis, I don't see no chance for you."

"What am I to do, then?" asked Clare in dismay.

"Well, m'm, if you arst me, I should say you was best go back to London. There's the up express going out in five minutes as 'll get you to Paddington at 2.45, and the company 'll pass you down to-morrow with the same ticket."

There did not seem to be much choice about the matter. Clare dispatched a telegram to her father, and was presently speeding towards the metropolis again in the company of several angry individuals, who, like herself, had been compelled to abandon their journey, and who perhaps had less reason for railing at their luck than she had. It is always a disagreeable thing to have to return after saying good-bye; but in Clare's case this necessity was more than usually painful. The only grain of comfort that she could take to herself, as she was driven away from the Paddington station, was the thought that she certainly would not find Adrian at home on her return. He would, of course, dine at his club, and the chances were that she would not see him until the following morning; so that there would be no need for a long interview between them before they parted again. That she herself would have to do without dinner was not a prospect that distressed her; for she had no appetite, and, indeed, cared little about dinner at the best of times.

She was becoming more cheerful, when an incident occurred which convinced her that this was indeed an unlucky day. Near the Albert Hall her hansom was brought to a standstill, and suddenly, to her horror, a too familiar voice exclaimed: "Mrs. Vidal!—is it possible! Have you relented at the last moment and decided not to bereave us yet awhile?"

Lord St. Austell's nose and teeth and eye-glass appeared before Clare's unwilling eyes, like a nightmare, out of the murky atmosphere. "I was on my way to your house," he continued. "Going to call on your husband, you know; I quite forgot to leave a card for him the other day. Allow me"—And with an agility very creditable in one of his years, Lord St. Austell hopped into the hansom and seated himself beside his victim. "Now we will proceed together," said he. "I call this a most auspicious meeting."

It certainly seemed to give him a great deal of pleasure. His habitual grin expressed real delight this time, and pre-

sently he fell back and went off into a fit of silent laughter which rather alarmed his companion, who could not understand why he should be so merry.

In truth, the days which are unlucky for some must needs be lucky for others, and impartial Fate, while dealing roughly with a few of our friends upon this occasion, had smiled upon Lord St. Austell. His Lordship had indeed set out from home with well-grounded anticipations of enjoyment; but this was far more than he had hoped for. His original plan of walking to Alexandra-gardens, asking for Mr. Vidal, and surprising his wife in a situation which even she would admit to be equivocal, sank into insignificance by comparison with the dramatic episode which he now had it his power to create, and so enchanted was he at the prospect of the coming joke that he had much ado to restrain himself from ruining it by taking Mrs. Vidal into his confidence. He listened inattentively to her account of the mishap which had caused her return, and only began to be amused when she assured him earnestly that he would not find her husband at home.

"Good-bye, Lord St. Austell," she said, as she stepped nimbly out on to the pavement; "I won't ask you to come in."

"How cruel you are to me, Mrs. Vidal!" exclaimed the old gentleman, reproachfully. "But perhaps I shall be allowed into the house, though you won't invite me. I came here to call on your husband, you know."

"It really is not worth while to get out and ask for him," said Clare. "He is quite certain to be at his club."

Lord St. Austell, however, had already rung the bell; and great was the astonishment of the parlour-maid on witnessing the return of her mistress, thus escorted. Had this young woman been possessed of presence of mind or consideration for the feelings of others, she would no doubt have mentioned that Adrian was not alone; but presumably she lacked these gifts, and even ordinary good manners into the bargain; for all that she did was to open her eyes very wide and ejaculate "Lord bless me, mum! Mr. Vidal will be surprised!" After which she tripped up stairs to open the drawing-room door.

A careful comparison of the time required to drive from Paddington to Alexandra-gardens with that occupied by the conversation between Adrian and his visitor recorded in the last chapter will show that the new-comers reached the foot of the staircase very shortly after Lady St. Austell had so rashly expressed a wish for their appearance. Neither she nor Adrian had heard the door-bell ring; but they were startled simultaneously by the sound of footsteps on the stairs, and exchanged glances of dismay.

"Good gracious!" exclaimed Lady St. Austell, "there's somebody coming! What shall I do?"

There was no time for anything. The words were barely out of her mouth when the door was flung open, admitting Lord St. Austell and Mrs. Vidal; and the tableau which ensued was doubtless appreciated to the full by the only one of the four persons concerned therein who was in a condition of mind to take note of its various features.

Adrian started up. His heart died within him, and a chilly conviction crept over him that he was in a worse scrape now than he had ever been in before. Lady St. Austell began to laugh; but when she met her husband's steady, malignant gaze, she ceased suddenly and caught her breath. What would he do to her? She had always been frightened of him, and she knew that he was not the man to show mercy for the

sake of mercy. Clare stopped short on the threshold, feeling dazed and sick, as if she had received a physical blow. The walls seemed to be turning round her, a mist rose before her eyes, and she would very likely have fainted had she not felt the touch of Lord St. Austell's arm, which was extended to catch her. From that contact she shrank away, making a strong effort to command herself, and stood, grasping the back of a chair with one hand and looking with a sort of fascination at Adrian's face, which was as white as her own. It was Lord St. Austell's high-pitched, sarcastic voice that broke the silence.

"Why don't you have a screen in your drawing-room, Mr. Vidal? I thought everybody had Japanese screens nowadays. It is a pity you forgot that useful article when you were furnishing, because, if you had only had it, we might have done the scene from 'The School for Scandal' to perfection. Lady St. Austell would have been Lady Teazle; you would have been Joseph Surface: I should have been Sir Peter; and Mrs. Vidal—well, there the cast breaks down a little; but perhaps I might have managed Charles Surface's laugh myself. To tell the truth, I am not sure that I am particularly well fitted to play Sir Peter's part; but I so far resemble him that I shall be glad to hear anything that you may have to say for yourself, Mr. Vidal."

"Is this a preconceived plot?" broke out Adrian, hoarsely. In truth, he hardly knew what he was saying.

"My dear Sir, you must permit me to remark that that is neither a very polite nor a very intelligent question. Ladies do not, as a rule, preconcert plots of which the last act takes place in the Divorce Court. May I inquire again whether you have anything to say for yourself?"

"Nothing to you," returned Adrian, finding a foolish comfort in defying somebody.

Lord St. Austell raised his eyebrows. "There was a time," he observed—"I am sorry to say that I am old enough to have more than one personal reminiscence connected with it—when, after such an answer as that, further words would have been superfluous. Indeed, I suppose that, whatever your answer had been, neither you nor I could have avoided a hostile encounter fifty years ago; and I may add that it is no bad thing for you that the century is so far advanced, for I should undoubtedly have killed you, if we had fought fifty years ago. Nowadays, as you are aware, a different mode of procedure is customary. We simply take Sir James Hamlyn and the public into our confidence, and all is amicably arranged, without loss of life."

"Sydney!" gasped Lady St. Austell, clasping her hands in a paroxysm of alarm, "you don't mean what you say—you can't mean it! You know I never did anything wrong in my life!"

Lord St. Austell focussed his eye-glass on his wife and surveyed her with interest. "I am not prepared," he answered, "to make quite so startling an assertion as that; but I will go so far as to say that never have I beheld a more innocent-looking person. Innocence is written upon every line of your countenance, my love—or at least it would be written there, if your countenance possessed any lines. You are agitated; but not more so than the circumstances warrant. You are indignant; but that is only what an innocent person ought to be; and I observe with pleasure that the colour has not forsaken your face."

Poor Lady St. Austell was ghastly. The fixed spots of pink upon her cheek-bones, which were hardly distinguishable

at ordinary times from the natural bloom of youth, contrasted strangely with the greenish-yellow tinge of the skin around them. There was a pause, during which Clare quietly left the room; and then Adrian bethought himself that he had taken a somewhat unwise course in refusing to give the explanation asked of him.

"Perhaps," said he, "I had better tell the plain truth about this unfortunate business. Lady St. Austell called here this afternoon out of sheer—what shall I say?—bravado. She wanted, I believe, to shock Lord Blaise, who had annoyed her by some things that he said. It is rather hard lines upon me, seeing that I did my best to dissuade her from coming, and that I shall have to suffer for my folly in giving way; but I see no reason why she should not get off scot free."

"There is no reason," cried the unhappy lady, who was thinking only of her own predicament, and did not notice the somewhat ungracious manner in which she was excused. "It all happened just as Mr. Vidal says. I never meant the slightest harm, and I know it is only that spiteful, dishonourable, red-headed wretch who has caused all this trouble!" And here, being overcome by the poignancy of her remorse, she burst into a flood of tears.

Lord St. Austell laughed—not ill-naturedly. "Be comforted," said he; "I am not going to petition for a divorce. I have fifty good reasons for refraining from doing so, amongst which, perhaps, the most excellent is that I shouldn't get one. There is no evidence to convict you of anything worse than of being a singularly foolish woman; and it is hardly necessary to put the law in motion in order to arrive at a conviction of that. Excuse my plain language."

With such a load of apprehension lifted from her mind, Lady St. Austell would have forgiven anything. She dried her eyes, which began to sparkle again; and her husband went on.

"May I advise you both not to attempt this sort of thing again. People who can't command their nerves ought not to court risk. I myself have often been far more awkwardly situated than you were just now, and I have always extricated myself without difficulty; but then I'm not nervous. Well, Mr. Vidal, the play is over now, and it only remains for us to bid you good-bye and go home. Please present my compliments to Mrs. Vidal, who I am sorry to see has left us, and tell her that I trust she will show as forgiving a spirit as I have done."

When Adrian was left alone, he sat down, and for the space of five minutes made use of every strong expression that he could think of, without thereby succeeding in putting much additional heart into himself. What he was to say to Clare he had no idea; but it was certain that he must say something to her, and presently he followed her to her bed-room, screwing up his courage as best he could to face the inevitable.

He found the door locked, and she only opened it a couple of inches to give him a brief account of the misadventure which had caused her return; after which she begged that she might be left undisturbed until the next morning.

"Won't you let me tell you how all this has come to pass?" pleaded Adrian, humbly.

But she answered, "To-morrow morning, if you wish—not now."

And in the morning he found her as impracticable as he had feared that she would be. He confessed the whole truth, admitting that he had done wrong in suppressing the fact that Lady St. Austell had been for some weeks in London, but declaring that his motives had not been bad motives, and assuaging with a fervour which ought to have been convincing that he had never entertained any feeling for that lady that was not of a mildly friendly character. But after what Clare had witnessed in Kensington Gardens, such protestations could only disgust her. She listened to him impassively for a time, and then interrupted him with—

"I would rather hear no more about it, please. I don't wish to refer to the subject again; nor, I should think, do you."

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE STING OF THE SCORPION.

One morning in January, Adrian, after breakfasting at his club, thought it would be a good thing to stroll down to the office of the *Anglo-Saxon*. It was some considerable time since he had seen the editor of that hybrid publication, and amongst the letters which lay beside his plate was one from Pilkington, in which he was asked to "look in some day between eleven and twelve o'clock." Another of his letters was from Clare, who had now been several weeks absent, and whose return had not yet been spoken of. It cannot be said that Adrian wished for her return. He had succeeded in making himself thoroughly angry with her, and in exonerating himself from all blame. At the bottom of his heart, there may still have lurked some belief that things would come right in the long run; but he said to himself repeatedly that he had no such hope, and that if she was determined to make life a burden for them both, it was certainly better that they should remain apart. As Clare, starting from other premises, had arrived at a similar conclusion, there seemed little likelihood that the husband and wife would meet again until they found it advisable to quiet the suspicions of their relatives. A tacit agreement that the latter consideration was of some importance caused them to write to each other twice a week; and the difficulty of composing the letter thus exchanged may perhaps be regarded as part of the penance which they both undoubtedly deserved.

Some people, as we know, have to do penance for being worse than their neighbours, others for being better, and some only for being a little too prominently before their neighbours' eyes. It was in the last capacity that Adrian had begun rather to regret his connection with the *Anglo-Saxon*. Pilkington's crotchet of making his contributors sign their articles had not worked well. A man may submit to adverse criticism if his critic be personally unknown to him, or even if the identity of the critic be only shrewdly guessed at; but when Tom, Dick, or Harry openly proclaims himself as a Mino sitting in judgment upon his fellows, the matter assumes quite another complexion. In such a case poor Minos can hardly hope to give satisfaction. His capacity, unprotected by the editorial "we" in which so much virtue lies, is pretty sure to be called in question; it will be asked what business he has to thrust his personal predilections and prejudices down people's throats, and his praise will be little less resented than his blame.

"Am I, who have been before the public for twenty years, to be patronised by a whipper-snapper who only learnt to write his own language the other day?" calls out Jones, the eminent novelist. "Who the deuce cares whether he thinks me 'upon the whole, the most skilful portrayer of modern English life that we have among us' or not? 'Upon the whole,' is good. Of course we understand who runs me close and might be said to surpass me, if modesty didn't close his lips."

Thus Adrian had made enemies for himself; and to make enemies was what he could not endure. Moreover, he had been distressed latterly by comments upon the management of the *Anglo-Saxon*, which had reached his ears. The editorial disclaimer which had been wrung from Pilkington by Lady St. Austell, and which has been quoted already, had given rise

to a good deal of disrespectful mirth; nor was this the only instance in which that gentleman had thought it necessary to inform his readers that, though he sat upon the box, he did drive the coach. The common belief is that even the most perfectly trained of teams requires to be driven by somebody, and Pilkington had been at some pains to point out that his team was not trained at all. Thus the public had fallen into the disastrous habit of laughing at him and his queer paper; and Adrian feared—without having any precise information upon the point—that the circulation of the latter was not what could be wished. He had as yet received no return for the two thousand pounds which he had so reluctantly invested in it, although he had supposed that the dividends would have been payable half-yearly. Fifty per cent would have been extremely welcome to him, and so, indeed, would twenty-five. Ten would not have been amiss. Of late his expectations had become so modest that he had more than once muttered to himself that he would be very glad to see his two thousand back, without a penny in respect of interest.

Revolving all these things in his mind, Adrian walked slowly towards the Strand, where the offices of the *Anglo-Saxon* were situated. These were not particularly commodious; but the editor's room had been furnished with rather more regard to elegance than is generally bestowed upon such apartments, in deference to the fastidious tastes of its present occupant—who, by-the-way, was seldom to be seen in it.

Pilkington, who was seated before a broad writing-table, swung round in his chair, which turned on a pivot, and held out his hand to Adrian with that air of kindly patronage which was all his own. "How do you do, Vidal?" he said. "I am glad to see you again."

"And I am very glad to see you," returned Adrian. "I rather wanted to ask you about one or two things connected with the paper. You have been a long time out of town."

"I should have been a good deal longer out of town, if I could have consulted my own wishes; but all this"—and he waved his hand towards the table, which was covered with MSS. and proofs—"requires looking into every now and then. I find it a great drag upon me."

It occurred to Adrian that Pilkington probably earned his salary with as little labour as any man living; but he said, "I suppose you must."

"So much so that lately I have sometimes thought that it might be better to give it up."

"I trust you won't do that," said Adrian, quickly. "The whole thing would go to pieces if you withdrew."

"Even so, the world would continue to revolve upon its own axis much as usual, I dare say. But I am not sure that my retirement from the editorship would have so bad an effect upon the paper as you are kind enough to assume. Many people seem to think that Mr. Larkins would replace me very efficiently."

Mr. Larkins was the sub-editor—an alert business-like man, not quite a gentleman, who had won his spurs in journalism some years back, and who devoted only a small portion of his valuable time to the *Anglo-Saxon*. The sub-editorship had been offered to him by the wish of some of the proprietors and against that of Pilkington, who detested him, but nevertheless left the management of all details in his hands. It was he who wrote the paragraphs headed "Social Scraps," and as these for the most part referred to the doings of people of whom he knew absolutely nothing, he depended for his information upon various correspondents, and was as often as not led into making erroneous assertions by them. This, he was wont to declare, was not of the slightest consequence. Trifling misstatements broke no bones, and an action or two for libel tended to bring a paper into notice and increase its sale. But his chief, who took a different view, was made miserable by his repeated indiscretions.

"Larkins would alter the entire character of the paper immediately," said Adrian.

"Oh, no doubt; the question is whether the character of the paper had not better be altered. I won't affect to deny that, so far, it has hardly answered my expectations. It has been an experiment; and, after all, I take it that the pleasure which one derives from making experiments consists chiefly in one's uncertainty as to how they will turn out."

Adrian thought that depended a good deal upon whether one had staked two thousand pounds upon the result or not. "For choice," he remarked, "I prefer the experiments which turn out well."

"So do I," answered Pilkington, smiling blandly; "but 'tis not in mortal to command success. Without too much vanity, we may flatter ourselves that we have deserved it—you and I, at least. You were saying that you had some questions to ask me."

Adrian would have liked to ask whether the *Anglo-Saxon* was paying its way, and how soon persons who had risked money in the undertaking might expect to receive some return for their investments; but finding it rather difficult to put these inquiries into so many words, he said, "Oh, I don't know that there was anything very particular, after all. I wanted to know how things were going on."

Apparently, Mr. Pilkington did not think that this called for any rejoinder from him. He sat silent for a few moments, trimming his nails with a pen-knife, and then said, "By-the-way, have you seen this week's number of the *Scorpion*?"

"I don't think I have," answered Adrian. "Is there anything special in it?"

"They treat us—or, perhaps, I ought rather to say you—to a column and a half of abuse. Here it is, if you care to look at it." And he handed Adrian a copy of the paper in question, pointing out the article to which he had alluded.

It was headed *Quis custodiet ipsos Custodes?* and from its opening sentences Adrian learnt that the *Anglo-Saxon*, in spite of its failure to command popular support, had, from the outset, afforded a great deal of amusement to its readers. It had not been taken seriously; but then (said the writer) anyone who was at all behind the scenes must have known all along that it was not intended to be so taken. The editor possessed a delicate appreciation of humour, and it was impossible to doubt that he had had many a quiet laugh over the performances of the distinguished contributors whom he had prevailed upon to exhibit themselves in unwonted attitudes to an astonished public. The enjoyment that was afforded to him by his publication was probably analogous to that of the ingenious person who persuades elephants to stand on their heads on inverted tubs and poodle-dogs to fire off pistols. The *Anglo-Saxon* had been thoroughly funny from first to last; but in nothing had the editor shown himself more determined to have his joke than in handing over the critical department to Mr. Adrian Vidal, an author who had produced one bad and one fairly good novel, but who was otherwise unknown to fame. Month after month this very self-satisfied young gentleman had been apportioning praise and censure among the greatest living writers of fiction with a gravity which was about the most comical thing that the spokesman of the *Scorpion* could remember. Then followed a list of some of the books which poor Adrian had been ordered to review, together with extracts from his comments upon them, which it was no very difficult matter to turn into ridicule. "But," continued the writer, pulling himself together, as it

were, and becoming grave, "there is a point at which incapacity ceases to provoke laughter; and, after perusing Mr. Vidal's last effort, which deals with recent French novels, we are inclined to ask whether the time has not come for his removal into some other sphere of usefulness. Of the six works which he has singled out for unreserved commendation, we can only say that we hope never to see any one of them in the hands of an English lady." The works referred to were then discussed as fully as the modesty of the writer would allow: "and these," he concluded, with righteous indignation, "are the pretty stories which Mr. Vidal has the face to recommend for general reading."

"I never did anything of the sort!" cried Adrian, throwing down the paper. "I never recommended them for general reading. I said they were admirable as works of art; and so they are. As for their morality, I didn't see that I was called upon to direct attention to that. Everybody knows that French novels must be judged by a standard altogether different from ours, and it would be perfectly ridiculous to begin each review by saying, 'This plot is not one which an English author would have ventured to employ.' The books were not objectionable of their kind, and the man who wrote this knows that as well as I do. It is a most dishonest and blackguardly attack!"

Pilkington continued to pare his nails: he did not manifest any responsive ire. "I have not read the books," he remarked.

"Read them, then, and judge for yourself," said Adrian, feeling that his editor was not supporting him as he ought. "As it happens, four out of the half-dozen books are by members of the Academy, and the remaining two are by men whom it would be the most absurd prudery to call immoral writers."

"Yes; but as a matter of fact, are the plots immoral?" asked Pilkington.

"Why, of course they are, in one sense. The writing is not immoral—looking at it as a Frenchman would look."

"I dare say not; but attacks such as this, whether honest or not, are calculated to do us great harm with the public, and if the facts upon which they are based cannot be denied, it is impossible to make any reply to them."

Adrian, nevertheless, resolved that he would reply, and that his reply should be of such a nature as to cause not only his assailant, but every scribbler connected with the *Scorpion*, to writhe. Angry as he was already, he became much more so when he had finished the article, which, quite characteristically, carried its sting in its tail.

"We will not be too hard upon Mr. Vidal"—so ran the concluding paragraph. "His taste in literature is peculiar: but we are constrained to admit that its peculiarity is not so great but that a considerable number of so-called decent people share it with him, and we are willing to believe that he is personally as decent as the best of them. He has a right to his taste. But what he has no right to do, in his quality of critic—even though he be but the critic of a serio-comic publication like the *Anglo-Saxon*—is to advise our wives and daughters to read books whose chief aim is to throw contempt upon those domestic and conjugal virtues for which, no doubt, Mr. Vidal's own private life is conspicuous."

It was clear enough to Adrian that the last words must have been written by someone who was not unacquainted with the circumstances of his private life. An enemy had done this thing! "Upon my soul!" he exclaimed aloud, "I believe a thick stick would convey the most suitable rejoinder that could be made to such a fellow."

"I think," said Pilkington, holding up his hand before him, and admiring his carefully trimmed nails through half-closed eyes, "that you had better keep your temper. There is nothing to be gained by responding to challenges of that kind—either with sticks or pens. Besides, your case is not a very good one. You admit that the books were immoral books, and it is certain that you praised them highly."

"I praised what deserved praise in them, and held my tongue about the rest. I never recommended them."

"Praise in a review implies recommendation, as a matter of course. The *Scorpion* is ill-natured and unjust; but to tell you the truth, Vidal, I think you have been guilty of a slight error in judgment."

This was more than Adrian could stand. "If that is the view that you take," he answered, with calm fury, "my engagement on the *Anglo-Saxon* had better come to an end. I can't undertake to review books in such a way as to please the *Scorpion*; and, as regards this particular review, there isn't a single word in it which I should wish to alter."

Pilkington contemplated his fingers for another minute or so before he remarked, plaintively, "This it is to be an editor! I believe I may truly say that, since I undertook the *Anglo-Saxon*, I have not made one solitary suggestion, however deferential, that has not been immediately followed by a threat of retirement on the part of the person to whom it has been addressed. Whether the experience of other editors coincides with mine I do not know; but if it does, I think it would be no more than common justice that our memoirs should be added to the next issue of the *Lives of Saints*."

Someone who had entered the room unobserved during this speech here broke into a short laugh. "All in good time," said he. "I will write the memoir myself, sooner than that it should remain unwritten; but it is impossible to canonise an editor until he or his journal have ceased to exist, and we can't do without our *Anglo-Saxon* yet awhile, much less without our Pilkington."

Pilkington had so much of the magnanimity which belongs to the truly great that many other persons besides Percy Kean might probably have chafed him with impunity, had they been so minded; but nobody else ever did so. He made a half-turn on his chair now, smiling indulgently.

"Ah, Kean," he said, "you are one of the people who know everything. Perhaps you can tell us for what reason the *Scorpion* has thought fit to fall upon us, tooth and nail."

"Of course I can," answered Kean. "For the same reason that dogs delight to bark and bite, and bears and lions growl and fight. In addition to that, the *Scorpion* is a society paper, and thinks you have no business to go poaching on its preserves with your absurd 'Social Scraps.' Personally, I agree with the *Scorpion*."

"Then let it fall foul of Larkins," said Adrian, who was still at white heat. "It is rather too bad that I am to be accused of all kinds of wickedness because the *Scorpion* has a grudge against a man with whom I have nothing to do."

"Oh, the *Scorpion* may have a grudge against you, too, for anything that I know to the contrary," returned Kean. "I wouldn't let it get a rise out of me, though."

"That is just what I have been telling him," observed Pilkington; "and because I do so, he threatens to desert me."

"Oh, nonsense!" said Kean, good-naturedly; "he won't desert you, nor will I. No! we will never desert Mr. Micawber! Let who will play you false, Vidal and I will remain faithful to the end. Come along, Vidal, and have some lunch. I would ask our illustrious chief to join us; only I know he can't afford to be seen with the likes of me."

And, taking Adrian by the arm, he led him out into the street before the latter had time to explain that Mr. Pilkington had not reported quite accurately the words which had prompted his offer of resignation.

(To be continued.)

THE MAGAZINES FOR MAY.

"Court Royal," the leading fiction in the *Corphill Magazine*, continues bright, lively, attractive, and, we must add, thoroughly unnatural. The conversation of the Jewish marine-store dealer might almost pass for a burlesque; and yet Mr. Gould's animation compels the reader to travel gaily along with him. "Rainbow Gold" is clever and well written, as usual. The novelists, however, seem unable to invent anything so dramatic as some of the strictly historical anecdotes in "Humours of Parliamentary Elections," which are instructive as well as amusing, in so far as they show what gross and almost incredible abuses may consist with a fair amount of health in the body politic. "No. 11, Welham-Square," a story of a haunted house, is unique among ghost tales for the sublime conception of an athletic spectre, pummelled within an inch of his life—or an inch beyond it—by the united efforts of three grown people.

The chief contribution to the *English Illustrated Magazine* is a masterly character portrait of Lord Wolseley by Mr. Archibald Forbes—highly favourable without flattery, and impressing the reader with a conviction that Mr. Forbes has perfectly studied his man, and that his verdict may be thoroughly relied upon. Bret Harte's "Ship of '49" is concluded, and is one of his best stories. The continuation of Mr. Crane's "Sirens Three" exhibits his usual wealth of fancy.

Blackwood has a valuable paper on the causes which interfere with the efficiency of the national armaments, especially in artillery, somewhat injured, perhaps, by the prominence given to the alleged grievances of particular inventors. "London in May" is a sparkling medley of artistic, social, and dramatic criticism, and the interest of "The Waters of Hercules" increases with every instalment.

The *Fortnightly Review* is better this month than it has been for some time past. Sir Lepel Griffin's essay on the question of peace or war with Russia conveys the Anglo-Indian view, which it is satisfactory to find substantially the same as that generally prevalent in this country. Mr. Bartley's experience as a veteran Election Agent lends importance to his views of the kind of Conservative policy likely to commend itself to the masses. Many old-fashioned Conservatives will think they might as well have Liberalism at once. Another Conservative's proposal to make a Jonah of Mr. Gladstone would have more significance if it proceeded from the other side. The charges of negligence and procrastination brought against Sir Charles Wilson by Mr. C. Williams, late Sudan correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, will no doubt be held to require an answer. Mr. Swinburne is also the subject of a fierce attack from Mr. W. L. Courtney; and Mrs. Macdonald, in a remarkably eloquent essay, exposes the idle pretence of theosophy to masquerade as Buddhism.

The *Contemporary Review* has three important articles—Sir Austen Layard's plea for an alliance with Turkey, Sir Richard Temple's account of the armies of the native States of India, and Sir John Lubbock's investigation, with copious illustrations, of the laws of growth in leaves. Canon Cook's abstract of the Kalevala, the great popular Finnish epic, is very interesting. "Contemporary Life and Thought in Russia" is somewhat disappointing.

The most important article in the *National Review* is Mr. Balfour's warning against confusing politics with political economy—excellent advice, but practically very difficult to follow. Mr. Austin's polemic against theological polemics in connection with poetry only proves, we fear, that he is very angry with the *Spectator*. It is surprising to find a judicious politician like Mr. Keble, in his essay upon the Duke of Wellington as a Prime Minister, imagining that the first Reform Bill could have been emulated by a private understanding among leading statesmen. Cobbett and the Border Minstrelsy supply material for two good literary papers.

The new number of the *Magazine of Art* shows a desire on the part of its conductors to relieve the dry technicalities of art with matter of a lighter character. Mr. Harry Furniss's pictorial parody on Sir Joshua Reynolds, wherein Mr. Millais is represented painting the portrait of Sir Frederick Leighton, is an amusing example; and the pretty setting by Miss Alice Havers of Mr. Allingham's "Swing Song" is a step in the same direction. Among the more serious contents of the number is an excellent essay on the art of Mr. Burne Jones.

The *Art Journal* for May is full of pleasant variety. The etched frontispiece is a good specimen of the art of J. E. Saintia and D. Mordant. Mr. Hutton continues his graphic sketches of "Club-Land," and Mr. J. C. Robinson, her Majesty's Inspector of Pictures, contributes a carefully illustrated paper on the collection of old masters formed by Mr. Francis Cook, of Richmond. There are other interesting articles, with numerous engravings, which altogether make up an excellent number.

The chief attraction of the *Century* is the cluster of articles on the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, which, in the case of those proceeding from the two commanders, lose something of their attractiveness for want of literary finish. General Johnston is so intent on defending himself against President Davis as to necessitate constant reference to President Davis's book, and General McClellan writes a history as he would write a despatch. *Harper* has a contribution most interesting to Londoners, a beautifully illustrated account of a voyage through the great metropolis by the Regent's Canal. Few have hitherto appreciated the varied picturesqueness of this water highway, now so seriously menaced by railway projects. "Española and its Environs" is full of beautiful description of New Mexican landscape and manners. "The Red Glove" is as good as ever; and there are other excellent stories. Miss O'Meara's delightful reminiscences of Madame Mohl and her salon are concluded in the *Atlantic Monthly*, which is further remarkable for the continuation of "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountains," and for a terse, mainly, and generous criticism on George Eliot by Henry James.

"My Friend Edith," in *Temple Bar*, is a very pretty story. There is nothing else of special note in the number; nor in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, except the continuation of Miss O'Hanlon's "Unforeseen," and Mr. Montague's extremely graphic pictures of the salt lakes of South Africa. "Cecil Power's" serial in *Belgravia*, "Babylon," continues full of spirit and sparkle; and Mr. Julian Hawthorne's "Love or a Name," though not a high-class novel, keeps the attention on the stretch. Miss Ida Taylor's "Ingénue" evinces considerable talent for comedy.

Other magazines will be noticed next week.

Dr. W. H. Russell will preside at the anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, to be held at Willis's Rooms on the 16th inst.

A novel and attractive show—the Miniature Madame Tussaud's Exhibition—will take place at the Lady Egerton of Tatton's, 23, Rutland-gate, on May 21 and 22; and it bids fair to be one of the most successful charitable undertakings of the season. Tickets can be obtained from Miss M. T. Flower, 14, Norfolk-crescent, W. The festival is in aid of the Industrial Fund for the Girls' Friendly Society.

CHIESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

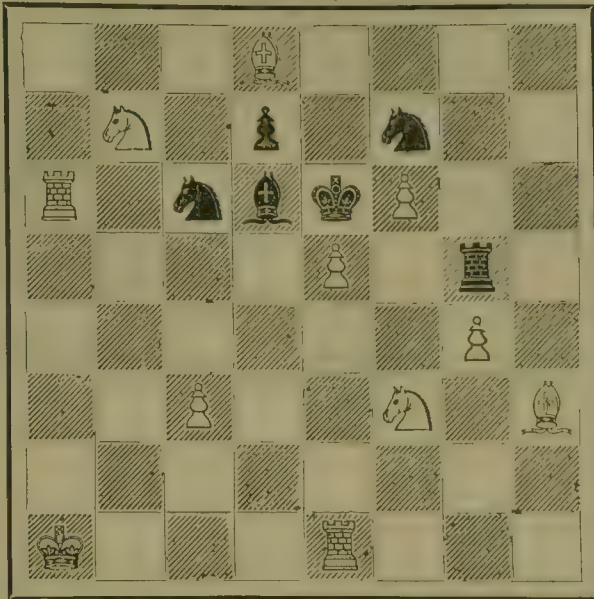
All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope.

- E T (Clifton).—Of course we accept your problem, and it shall soon appear.
H B (C. ed. ton).—Very good, indeed; and very acceptable.
G A (City Club).—Many thanks for the game. We have used your notes, as we do not think we can improve them.
Rev. J. W. (Pagan on).—Thanks for good wishes. We hope to hear from you frequently now the ice is broken.
FEARLE (King's Lynn).—Take a course of the openings from Staunton's Handbook, and follow up with the pawn and-games in the same work. None of the more modern works are to be obtained through the ordinary channels, being, for the most part, out of print.
G E K (Southsea).—Problem No. 2141 cannot be solved as you suggest. Take your own moves 1. R to Q B 3rd, K to B 5th; 2. R to K R 3rd, K to K 5th; 3. R to Q K 7th, and now you say "mate" when there is no mate. What is to prevent Black playing 3. K to B 5th?
P S W (Shrivesham).—The first position could be solved by way of 1. Kt P takes P. The second we have not yet examined.
W D (Guernsey).—The four-move problem is unsuitable, but the one in two moves shall be examined.
C A L B (Teddington).—Neat enough. It shall be examined.
G E W.—The most recent work on actual play is "Modern Chess," by H. E. Bird, published by James Wade, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden.

PROBLEM No. 2146.

By WALTER WARING, M.A.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

A neat little game played on the 27th ult. in the Winter Tournament of the City of London Chess Club, for which, with accompanying notes, we are indebted to Mr. George Adamson, honorary secretary of the club named. Mr. Adamson remarks: "It will be observed that the opening is a French defence, in which the first player adopts Steinitz's variation, 3. P to K 5th. This weak Pawn becomes the object of an attack, which Black steadily prosecutes up to the 17th move, when it falls. When too late, Black discovers that the object of his pursuit was the bait of a trap, and that in snatching it he has been caught."

(French Defence.)

- | WHITE
(Mr. Woolley). | BLACK
(Mr. Durrant). |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. P to K 4th | P to K 3rd |
| 2. P to Q 4th | P to Q 4th |
| 3. P to K 5th | P to Q B 4th |
| 4. P to Q B 3rd | P takes P |
| 5. P takes P | B to Q Kt 5th (ch) |
| 6. Kt to Q 2nd | B to R 4th |
| 7. Kt to K B 3rd | Kt to Q B 3rd |
| 8. B to Q Kt 5th | Kt to K 2nd |
| 9. Castles | Castles |
| 10. P to Q R 3rd | P to K B 3rd |
| 11. P to Q Kt 4th | B to Q B 2nd |
| 12. B to Q 3rd | P takes P |
| 13. Kt takes P | Kt takes Kt |
| If 13. Kt takes P, then 14. Q to R 5th, &c. | |
- Swallowing the bait!
18. Kt takes B Q takes Kt
19. R to K sq Q to B 3rd
He can do nothing better. If he take the Q R he will be mated in four moves.
20. Q to R 5th (ch) K to Kt sq
White mates in three moves.

The Earl of Stair has been installed Lord Chancellor of Glasgow University, in the place of the late Duke of Buccleuch. The Hon. James Russell Lowell unveiled the bust of Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Westminster Abbey on Thursday.

An address to the King of the Belgians, in recognition of his Majesty's services in respect to the Congo Free State, has been unanimously agreed to by the Court of Common Council.

On Thursday week the Upper and Lower House of Convocation met in the College Hall, Westminster, to receive from the Revision Company the revised version of the Old Testament. A vote of thanks to the revisers was passed.

At the last meeting of the St. Giles's District Board of Works, it was resolved to spend £200 in planting plane-trees along such portion of the new street (from New Oxford-street to Piccadilly) as is within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Viscount Hampden (late Speaker of the House of Commons) will preside at the Anniversary Festival of the Cabdrivers' Benevolent Association, to be held at Willis's Rooms on Saturday, June 27. The object of the festival is to increase the amount of the annuity fund, so as to enable a few more aged, worn-out, but deserving cabdrivers to be chosen as pensioners at £20 a year each.

The Duke of Northumberland presided last week, at Willis's Rooms, at the annual festival of the Friends of the Clergy Corporation—an association formed for allowing pensions to widows and orphan unmarried daughters of clergymen of the Established Church, and for affording temporary assistance to necessitous clergymen and their families. It was announced that subscriptions to the amount of nearly £1000 had been promised.

The fifteenth report of the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland shows that the contributions received by that body from all sources during 1884 amounted to £190,611, an increase on the receipts of the previous year of over £12,000. The total assets on Jan. 1, 1885, stood at £7,210,563. It is stated that, unless some considerable improvement takes place in the funds of the Church, the average income of the clergy is likely to be about £200 per annum.

The company of "Pastoral Players," of which Lady Archibald Campbell is the president, will give a series of representations in the grounds of Coombe House, Kingston-on-Thames, under the immediate patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne. "As You Like It" will be played on May 28, 29, and 30, and again on July 14, 15, and 16. On June 29 and 30 and July 1 "The Faithful Shepherdess" will be produced. The plays are under the direction of Mr. E. W. Godwin, who so successfully arranged "As You Like It" last year.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Feb. 10, 1880) of Sir Thomas Bazley, Bart., formerly of Eyford Park, Gloucestershire, and for many years M.P. for Manchester, who died at Riversleigh, Lytham, on March 18 last, was proved at the district registry of Lancaster on the 21st ult. by his widow, Mary, Lady Bazley, and Sir Thomas S. Bazley, the present Baronet, the executors named in the will. The value of the personal estate amounted to £92,000. With the exception of a few unimportant legacies, chiefly to domestic servants, the property is bequeathed to the said Thomas Sebastian Bazley (only child of the testator), subject to the payment, for her life, of one half of the total annual income to the Dowager Lady Bazley.

The Irish Probate, granted at Dublin, of the will (dated Feb. 27, 1857) of Sir William Compton Domville, Bart., late of Heywood, Ballinakill, Queen's County, who died on Sept. 20 last, to Dame Caroline Domville, the widow, and sole executrix, was re-sealed in London on the 8th ult., the value of the personal estate in England and Ireland exceeding £14,000. After providing for the payment of his debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, the testator gives all the residue of his property to his wife, absolutely.

The will (dated Feb. 16, 1882) of Mr. Colin Minton Campbell, J.P., D.L., M.P. for the northern division of Staffordshire from 1874 to 1880, late of Woodseat, Rochester, Staffordshire, who died on Feb. 8 last, was proved on the 23rd ult. by John Fitzherbert Campbell, the son, Herbert Campbell, the brother, and Samuel Herbert Cooper, the executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of £189,000. The testator gives to his wife, Mrs. Louisa Wilmot Campbell, £2000, £1000 per annum, for life, subject to reduction if she marries again, enters a convent or nunnery, or adopts a conventual life, and (on the cesser therein of a relative's interest) a residence, with the furniture and effects, at Torquay, or, if she does not elect to use it, a further sum of £200 per annum, for life; he confirms their marriage settlement, and declares that the provision made for his wife by his will is in addition to, and not in substitution of, that in the settlement. Upon trust for his daughters, Jessie Louise, Mary Emmeline, and Constance Lilian, £20,000 each; and all his real estate and the residue of the personality to his said son. Provision is made in respect of his shares in the partnership businesses of Campbell and Co., tile manufacturers, and Minton and Co., china and earthenware manufacturers.

The Scotch Confirmation, under seal of the Commissariat of the county of Edinburgh, of the holograph trust disposition and settlement (dated Aug. 6, 1873) of Mr. John Fraser, Manager of the Life Association of Scotland, late of No. 13, Moray-place, Edinburgh, who died on Jan. 31 last, granted to Alexander Fraser, the brother, Major-General Robert Farquhar Webster, Mrs. Susan Foulis Webster, or Fraser, the widow, and four others, the executors nominate, was sealed in London on the 1st ult., the value of the personal estate in England and Scotland amounting to over £71,000.

The will (dated April 16, 1855) of Doña Francisca del Valle, late of Sancti Spiritus, in the Island of Cuba, who died on June 8 last, at Havana, was proved in London on March 31 by Don Antonio Ysnaga del Valle, the son, the executor in the second place, the value of the personal estate in England amounting to over £55,000. The testatrix leaves one fifth of her property, subject to the payment thereof of some legacies, to her husband, Don Roque de Lara, who, however, died in her lifetime; and she appoints as her universal heirs her children, Doña Maria de la Natividad, Don José Maria, Don Antonio, Don Pablo, and Doña Maria de la Concepcion.

The will (dated Feb. 1, 1872) of Don Roque de Lara y Campos, late of Trinidad and of Sancti Spiritus, both in the island of Cuba, who died at Havana April 21, 1884, was proved in London on March 31 last by Don Antonio Ysnaga del Valle, the executor in the second place, the value of the personal estate in England amounting to upwards of £31,000. The testator leaves 1000 dols. to be distributed among poor mendicants and modest poor, and directs that the expenses of his funeral and burial be economised in favour of the same; provision is made for the freeing of two slaves on the death of his wife; and there are some other bequests. He names as his universal heiress his wife, Doña Francisca del Valle, failing whom her legitimate children, Don José Maria, Don Antonio, Don Pablo, and Doña Maria de la Concepcion Ysnaga del Valle.

The will (dated Jan. 6, 1882) of Colonel Frederick Gustavus Burnaby, late of Somerby Hall, Leicestershire, who died on Jan. 17 last, at Abou Klea, was proved on the 18th ult. by Mrs. Elizabeth Alice Frances Hawkins Burnaby, the widow, and sole executrix, the value of the personal estate amounting to over £17,000. An imperfect statement of the contents of this will has been given in some papers; the following account may be relied on as correct. The testator appoints his wife guardian for her life of his children, under age at his decease, and at her death appoints Lady Hawkins Whitsted and Valentine Baker Paclm guardians of his said children; should this last named appointment take effect, then he bequeaths to them £500 each. All his real estate and the residue of his personal estate he leaves to his wife, absolutely.

The will (dated Jan. 15, 1884) of Major-General Charles George Gordon, C.B., late of No. 5, Rockstone-place, Southampton, who died on Jan. 26 last, at Khartoum, was proved on the 23rd ult., by Sir Henry William Gordon, K.C.B., the brother, one of the executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to £2205. The testator leaves all his real and personal estate, upon trust, to pay the income to his sister, Miss Mary Augusta Gordon, for life; at her death his property is to be divided into eighty-two shares, and distributed among his nephews and nieces in various proportions.

The annual general meeting of the supporters of the London Homoeopathic Hospital and Medical School was held on Thursday week, under the presidency of Lord Ebury. The report showed a marked degree of prosperity. Further additions to the endowed beds have been made, and one lady has endowed a bed in perpetuity by a gift of £1000.

The report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Westminster Hall restoration has been issued. The committee are substantially in favour of the adoption of Mr. Pearson's plans. It is recommended that, among other things, there should be provided four rooms of sufficient size to be used as conference or deputation rooms. Such rooms might also, it is suggested, be used by Royal Commissions. Mr. Pearson estimates the total cost of carrying out his designs at £35,300.

The earliest of the official brigade drills for the metropolitan Volunteers took place in Hyde Park last Saturday under the command of Colonel Clive, Grenadier Guards. The battalions taking part in it were the 2nd City Rifles, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cantlon, and the 3rd London Rifles, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Laurie, with whom was the new adjutant, Captain Wilson, 60th Rifles. The usual movements were gone through with commendable precision. — On Wimbledon-common the 2nd South Middlesex Rifles and the London Scottish had instructive tactical exercises.

SKETCHES OF PICTURES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.



THE FIRST STEP.—G. H. SWINSTEAD.



A GAMBLER'S WIFE.—MARCUS STONE, A.R.A.



FROM THE FIELD OF SEDGEMOOR.—SEYMOUR LUCAS.



"RING A RING OF ROSES."—FRED. MORGAN.



PRISONERS OF WAR: 1805.—W. F. YEAMES, R.A.



THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES.—P. R. MORRIS, A.R.A.

SKETCHES OF PICTURES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.



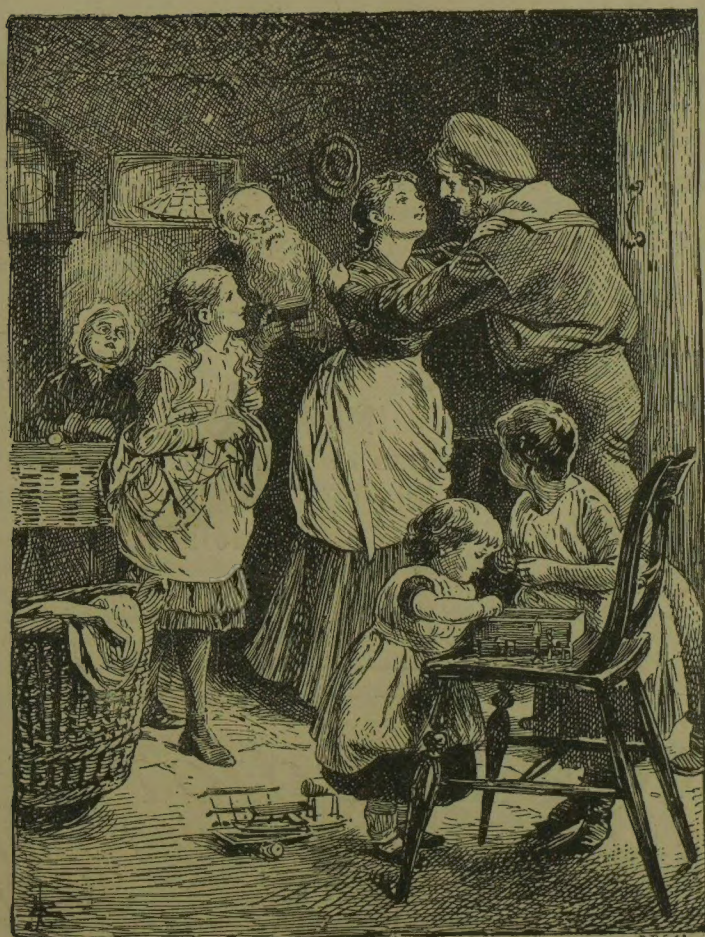
MILTON VISITED BY ANDREW MARVELL.—G. H. BOUGHTON, A.R.A.



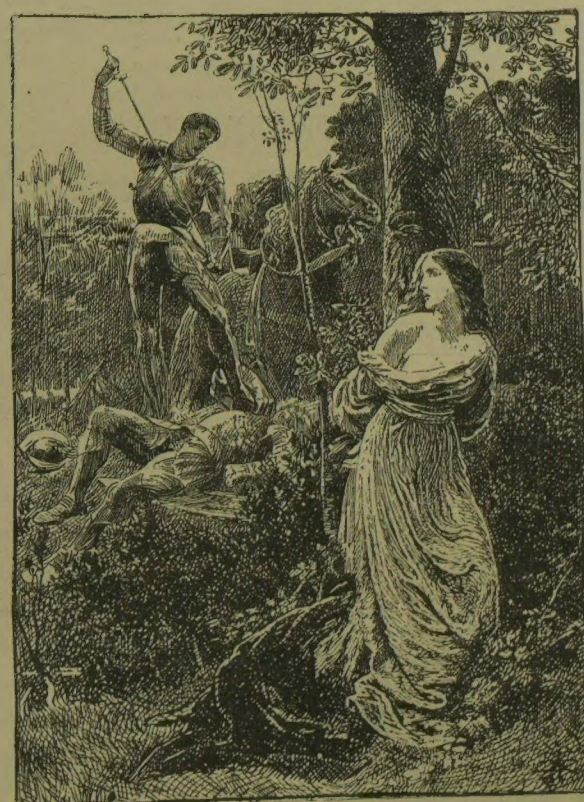
ROUSED.—HEYWOOD HARDY.



THE DANCE INTERRUPTED.—HAYNES WILLIAMS.



HOME AGAIN!—JOSEPH CLARK.



CHIVALRY.—FRANK DICKSEE, A.R.A.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

SECOND NOTICE.

Amongst the landscapes of the exhibition, Mr. R. W. Macbeth's "Fen Farm" (825), which is either a reproduction of, or the original study for, his oil picture exhibited at the Royal Academy last season, will probably take the first place in popular favour, and is interesting as a complement to both the oil-painting and the etching of this work. Mr. Keeley Halswelle is not numerously represented; but of his two pictures, the view of "Christchurch, Hants" (950), will rank very high amongst his works. The fine old church—altogether out of proportion to the present requirements of this decayed town—rises above the red house-tops, and stands with clear-cut outline against the blue sky. In the foreground is a wide expanse of tranquil water, round which rushes and flowering grasses of all sorts are springing into blossom and beauty. Mr. Edwin H. Fahey, whose affection for stagnant backwaters and mill pools is so well known, contributes studies from "The Thames" (54), "The Avon" (517), and "The Yare" (758), of which the first-named, with its view of Windsor Castle, is the most elaborate, but is wanting in that quality of atmosphere which is inseparable with evening on a river's side in this country. Mr. T. Collier's "Scene near Burley" (734) is finely conceived, rendering with vigour that nearest approach to moorland scenery which our southern counties can provide. Mr. George Marks's "Chalk Pit" (90), in spite of the somewhat crude tone of the grass, is an effective piece of work, but scarcely equal in value and not be compared for vigour with Mr. Joseph Knight's "Moorland" (144), or his flat sands of "Cardigan Bay" (185), or the deep tones and fine drawing of "Clouds Lingering Yet" (911). Of Mr. G. Clausen's three works, all marked by a richness of colouring, "The Harvest" (518) is the most striking. The contrast of labour and rest, as shown in the figure of the man binding up the corn, and in the evening air which pervades the picture, is most happily touched, whilst the rays of the setting sun, as they catch the tops of the "stooks" and fall upon the tired girl, are full of deep suggestiveness. The renderings of "Hampton Court Palace" (484), and the "Great Avenue" (1061), by Mr. Fulleylove, show that whilst he can reproduce in water colours effects which won him so much praise as an oil painter, his views of Tenby prove him sympathetic with nature as she is, as well as with nature as modified by art.

The principal sea-pieces of the year include Mr. Napier Hemy's "Pilchard Fishery" (192), a most remarkable work, full of busy life. The moment chosen is when the boats, having drawn together, have inclosed a rich shoal, and all their occupants are busy in securing the prize. The colour of the water, with the drifting sleet in the background, the movement of the heaving sea, the eagerness of the fishermen, have been caught in a very remarkable manner, and it is doubtful whether a similarly difficult experiment in drawing has ever been more successfully tried. Mr. Huson's "Gift of the Storm" (24), some boys gathering seaweed, is poor in colour and harsh in tone; but Mr. H. G. Hine's "Darlstone Bay," darkened by a passing rain-cloud, is not without its attractions; and the same may be said of Mr. John Mogford's "Rocky Nook near the Lizard" (240), and of Mr. I'Anson's "Cottage by the Sea" (269). Mr. Andrew Donaldson's "Pilot-Boat, Flushing" (334), is a careful study, in spite of an exaggerated blue which pervades this as well as his two views of "Haarlem" (180 and 968), and must militate against the popularity which, by his excellent draughtsmanship, he would otherwise attain.

Among the figure-pictures a prominent place is due to Mr. E. J. Gregory's "Morning Callers" (423), the study for a work which, under another name, was exhibited in oils last year—two young girls on a house-boat moored among the trees and flowering rushes have attracted the attention of the river swans. The colour of the whole scene, the graceful attitude of the girls, and the natural dignity of the birds, are even more distinguishable in the present work than they were in its more finished production. Miss Jane Dealy's "Goes Maiden" (3) of four years old, with her Frisian cap and blue kirtle, is a clever and effective bit of drawing and colouring; as is Mr. Yeend King's "La Bergère" (14), in spite of a very red face—a girl figure leaning on her staff, whilst round the meadow where her sheep are grazing the quiet river winds; Mr. Hugh Carter's "My First Solo" (37), a boy playing the fiddle to his wondering sisters, is a capital bit of home life, of which the meaning is as obvious as that of Mr. W. L. Thomas's "Fleeting Shadows" (43) is obscure—a young child propped up with pillows is patting a collie, whose sympathy seems almost human; but the expression of the girl's face is not childlike, but almost weary, as if she and sorrow or pain had long been intimate. In spite of this drawback, it is a delicate work, showing a master hand. Mr. Seymour Lucas's "Piping Times of Peace" (478) is broadly and effectively painted: a "soldier of fortune" who has hung up his sword and hauberk, and is taking his ease at the inn with a pipe and flagon of beer.

Among the other works to which we would call attention are Mr. C. Earle's "Tivoli Gardens" (15), Mr. E. Norbury's "August Fair, Boulogne" (30), a bold, but not altogether successful, attempt to make a night-picture in a style different to Mr. Whistler's; Mr. R. H. Carter's "Grandfather's Pet" (25); Miss Christina Ross's "Old Bridge at Bewick" (638) and "Mouth of the Tweed" (57); Mr. G. C. Kerr's "Evening Tide, Leigh, Essex" (73); Mr. W. Follen Bishop's "Maple-durham Mill" (99); Mr. Peter Ghent's "Moonlight on the Mersey" (101); Mr. W. H. Millais' "Spring Reflections" (124), a very delicate bit of English landscape; Mr. Ed. Caldwell's "Stage-struck" (142), an amusing study of dog life; Miss Ellen G. Hill's "Companion of her Solitude" (149), an episode in the child life of George Sand; Mr. Claude Hayes's "Changing Quarters" (158), a scene of gipsy life; M. Jules Lessore's delicate exterior of "St. Maclou" (176), and "Shoreham" (128); Mr. T. Pyne's "Hayfield" (197); Mr. John Watkins's "Une Vieille Paysanne" (201); Mr. P. Mitchell's "Fisherman's Haunts" (224), a nook on Dartmoor; Mr. C. E. Holloway's "King's Lynn" (282), "Gravesend" (421), and "Tower of London" (560); Mr. J. Aumonier's "Hastings Downs" (982 and 306); Mr. H. R. Steer's "Evicted" (347), which, in spite of its poorness in colour and plagiarism of Hogarth, has many strong points; Mr. W. L. Wyllie's "Gill's Yard" (358); "The City of Rochester" discharging (532) and "The Providence" repairing (711); Mr. H. G. Hine's "Cuckmere Haven" (451), with its white cliffs and blue sea; Mr. G. S. Walter's "Sunshine and Shower" (481); Mr. John Scott's two scenes from Andersen's well-known story of "The Marsh King's Daughter" (510 and 873); Mr. Edwin Hayes' half-dozen sea-pieces, especially the "Pilot-Boat off the Mumbles" (513) and "Dover Roads" (926); Mr. Sherrin's animal studies, "Golden Plover" (545), "Stopped in his Flight" (573), and "On the Alert" (585)—two rabbits. Mr. Arthur Severn's "Silver Sea" (594) and "Barge in the Ice" (983); Mr. Wake Cook's "Arundel" (466); and Mr. Henry J. Stock's very imaginative works, "Man in the Clouds of Mortality" (690) and "Immortality Rescuing the Soul" (1050).

MR. GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA IN SYDNEY.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of March 19 says:—"One of the most noteworthy incidents in our social life during the past week or two was the arrival by the mail steamer from San Francisco of Mr. G. A. Sala, who remained two or three days in Sydney before proceeding to Melbourne to commence his lecturing tour. Mr. Sala met with a very warm reception. The Mayor (Mr. Thomas Playfair), on the day after his arrival, invited him to an entertainment at the Townhall, at which Mr. Sala was introduced to a number of leading citizens; and on Saturday night last he was banqueted by the members of the Athenaeum Club, at their premises in Hunter-street. Mr. J. R. Fairfax, president of the club, took the chair, having the guest of the evening and the Hon. W. B. Dalley, Acting Colonial Secretary, on his right hand. Mr. Dalley, in proposing the health of Mr. Sala, made one of his usual felicitous speeches, in which he paid a high compliment to Mr. Sala's literary powers. Mr. Sala made a most interesting speech in reply, alluding to the struggles and difficulties he had gone through, and claimed that he had never been false either to his own convictions or to the cause of journalism. He stated that one of the objects with which he had come to Australia was to describe it to the people of England as it really is, exaggerating nothing, but placing a faithful picture before his readers. Dr. Brereton, Mr. Curnow, Mr. F. Ward, Sir Patrick Jennings, and the Hon. E. Barton (Speaker), also delivered addresses, and the gathering was all through one of the most brilliant and most enjoyable that we have had in Sydney for many a day."

The Duke of Northumberland presided on the 1st inst. over the annual meeting of the Royal Institution.

The London Corporation has voted 100 guineas to the Gordon Memorial Fund at the Mansion House.

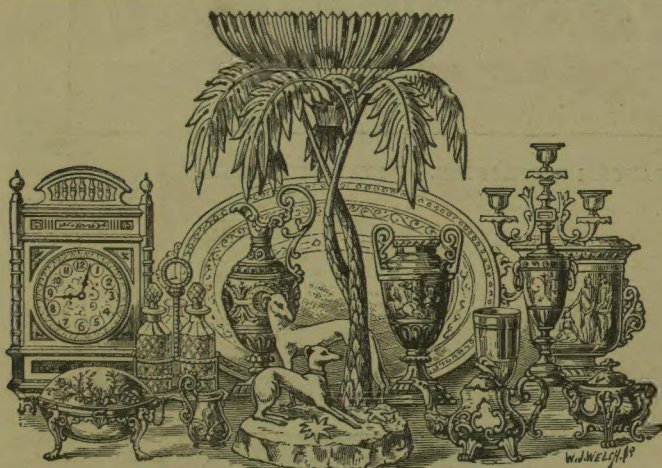
Mr. Gladstone visited the Institution of Civil Engineers last Saturday morning, and was shown the working of a new machine gun.

Mr. F. A. Bevan presided on Thursday week at the festival of the Home for Incurables, when subscriptions were announced to the amount of £1750.

The trustees of the British Museum have (says the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) acquired a beautiful drawing attributed to Filippo Lippi. It represents the Madonna seated, supporting the Child on her knee, while on each side of the throne are two saints. It is executed in pen and bistre. Fra Filippo was born about 1406, in Florence, and died in 1469.

In the presence of a large assembly of the Roman Catholic nobility, gentry, and priests of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a congratulatory address, and a purse of gold containing £2000, were on the 1st inst. presented by the Duke of Norfolk on behalf of the Catholic body of the metropolis to the Right Rev. Monsignor Gilbert, D.D., who for twenty-five years has discharged the duties of Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Professor Vambéry, at the Society of Arts yesterday week, read a paper on Herat, of which, in 1869, he had spoken as the gate of India. Herat, he maintained, was a place of great importance in many respects; it was a jewel that had been coveted by every conqueror, as it was still coveted to-day. The inhabitants hated the Afghans and Persians, and their loftiest idea had always been the independence of Herat. To the present day, said M. Vambéry, Herat was the traditional highway to India.



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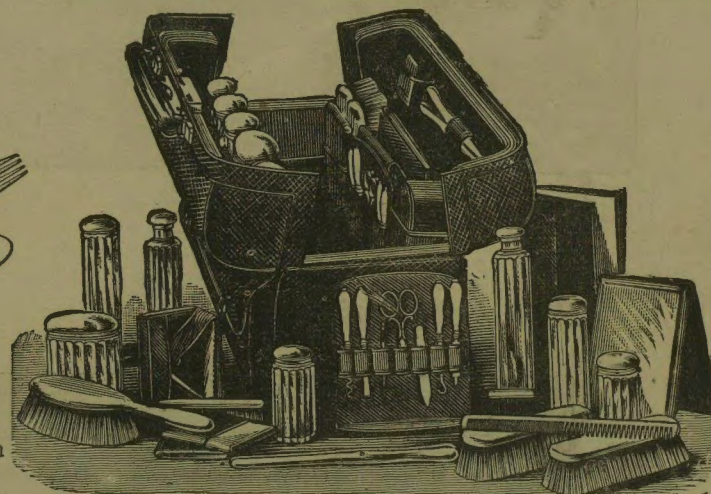
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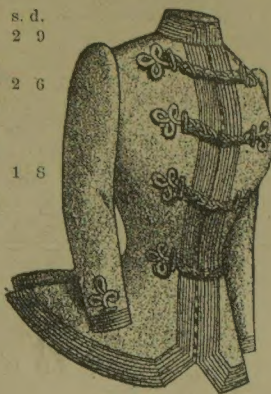
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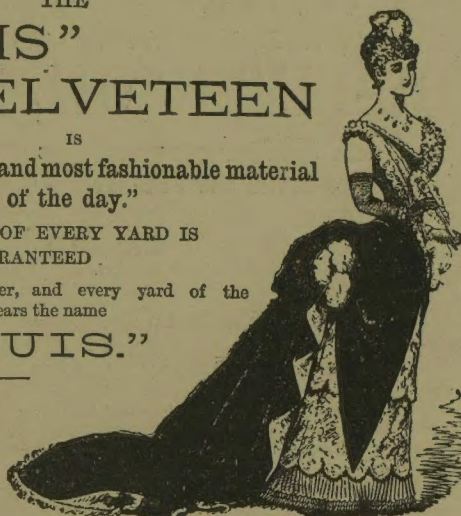
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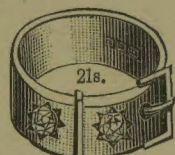
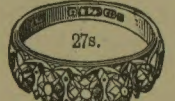
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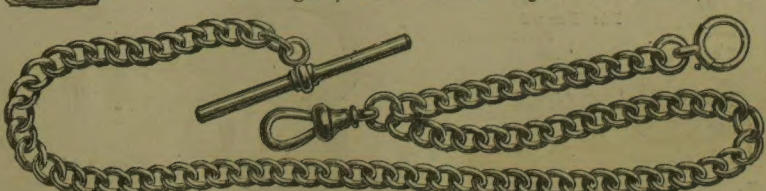
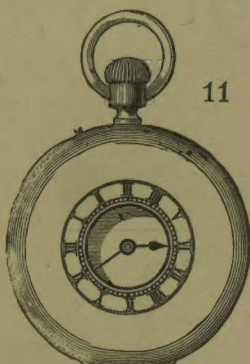
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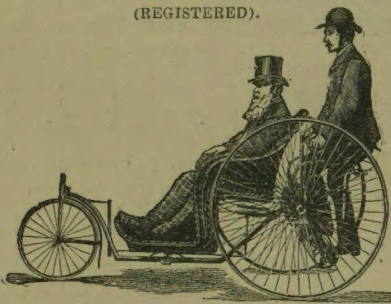


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